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Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

With Saipan casinos back on the table, how should the issue be decided: By voters acting on a legislative initiative or by lawmakers acting on a bill?

By voters **107**

By lawmakers **16**

Sunday, March 13, 2011

INSIDE

Third Victory

The Manta Ray Band emerges as the biggest winner in this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

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Winning Team

Saipan Southern High School emerges champion in this year's congressional mock trial competition.

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Two Rota schools win during the "Eat Right With Color" Recipe Contest.

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Kilili now ranking member of subpanel on insular areas. PAGE 5

Tourism trouble in paradise

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Editor's Note: This story forms part of a series that Saipan Tribune *will feature this week, examining the Commonwealth's tourism industry, focusing on the dire state of arrivals, particularly from its main market of Japan, and the steps that could be taken to reverse the trend.*

SPECIAL REPORT

After reaching its peak in 1996, the CNMI tourism industry began losing traction in 1998 and, if drastic steps are not taken soon, the blood that gives life to the ailing Commonwealth economy could soon dry up.

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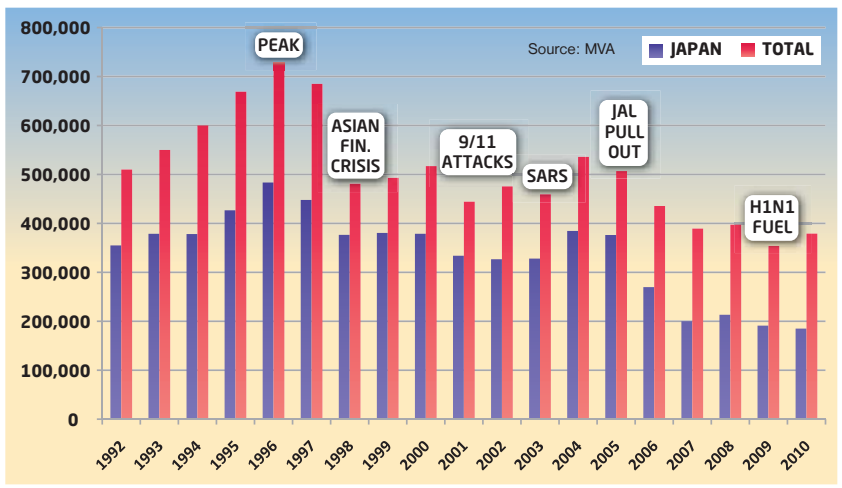

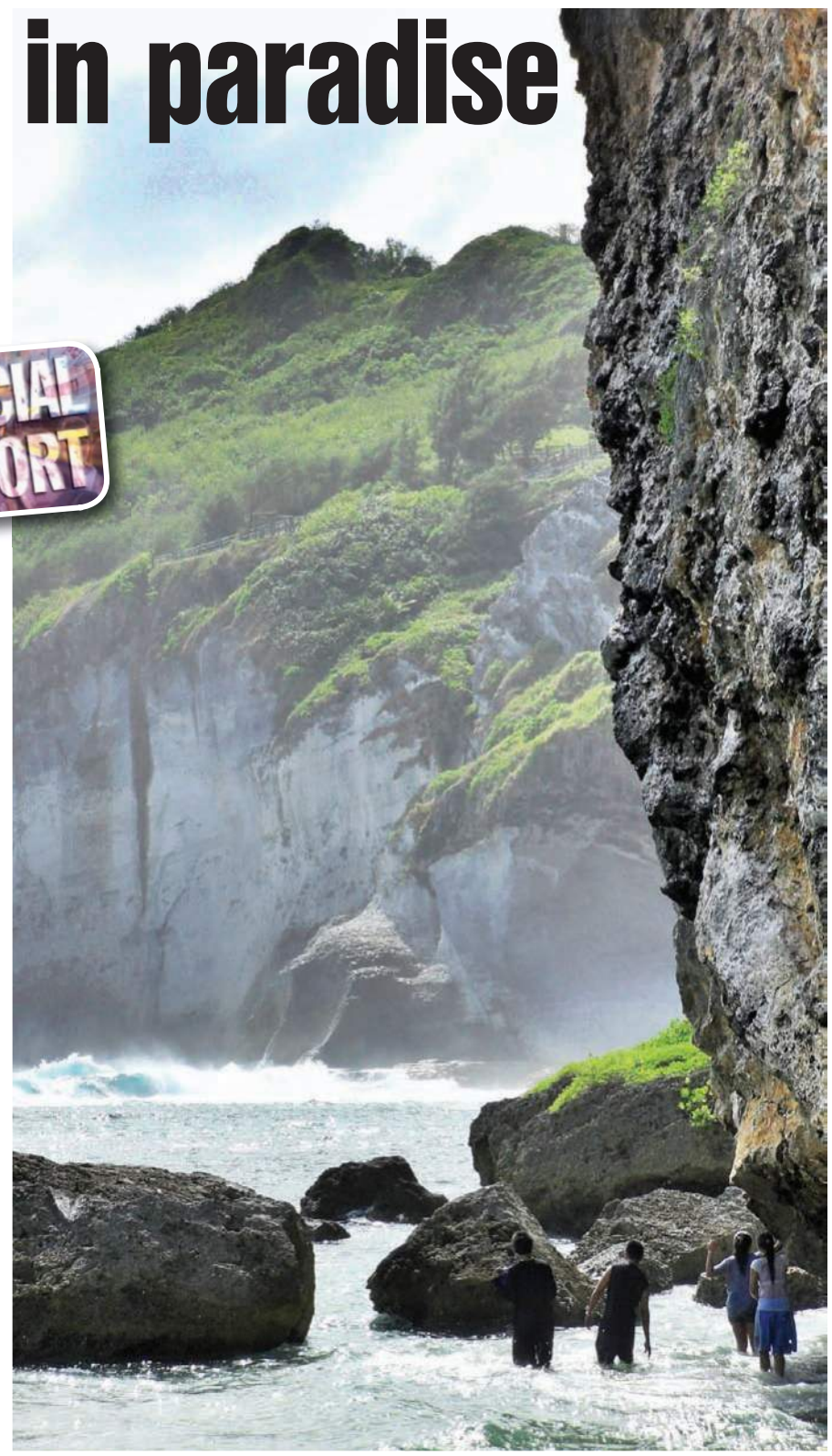

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Teens explore the Bird Island beach, one of several spectacular sites in the CNMI capital of Saipan that could only be reached through a 10- to 20-minute hiking in the northern end of the island. Tourism arrivals have not gone nowhere near their peak of 728,000 in 1996, and have been hovering only around half of that level. Arrivals could further dip to dangerously low levels unless the government, the private sector and ordinary community members really come together to save the only industry that's sustaining the economy.

CNMI offers prayers for Japan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, along with other community members, offered their prayers for the Japanese people after Friday's 8.9-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that claimed hundreds of lives.

"While we don't have the ability to undo the damage, we have the opportunity to open our hearts to help our

See **PRAYERS** on **Page 4**

'Tsunami evacuation went well'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The evacuation of residents from low-lying areas on Saipan on Friday went smoothly, although it caused traffic congestions in San Vicente, Airport Road, and on Capital Hill, according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela yesterday.

"Everything went well. The people

See **TSUNAMI** on **Page 4**

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Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band pose for a group photo after their performance at the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam last weekend.

TUMON BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Manta Ray Band brings home Guam festival's highest trophy

» Medal tally: 5 golds, 12 silvers, 1 bronze
» Koblerville's Glee Club is second best music group

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Concert Band emerged as the biggest winner in this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam, bringing home the event's Sweepstakes Trophy, an honor bestowed on the group that garners the highest raw scores in the entire festival.

This was the third time for the Manta Ray Band to dominate the festival. The group was also awarded the Sweepstakes Trophy in 2008 and 2009.

The Sweepstakes Trophy is determined by the highest raw score in the entire festival regardless of division and category and requires a maximum of 300 points.

Band music conductor and director Will DeWitt said the group's medal haul from the weeklong event was composed of five gold medals, 12 silver medals, and one bronze medal.

Among the gold medal winners were David Kim, who got the highest rated performance in solo piano; Sky Kim, for solo flute; Pyrrhic Victory, in the rock band category (its members include Joshua Roberto, Kevin Fejeran, Ken Alvarado, Jan Alcantara, and Eron Constante); small ensemble clarinet quartet with members Mindy Song, Elejohn Solomon, and Kanani Lee; and the 43-member Manta Ray Band in the concert band category.

According to DeWitt, the 12 silver medals were from various categories while the bronze medal was for the jazz rock and beyond category.

Saipan Tribune learned that SSHS principal Jesse Tudela and vice principal Jocelyn Manibusan flew to Guam on Saturday to support their students, who ruled the festival's command performance ceremonies, during which gold medalists showcase their winning pieces.

Saipan Pacific Wind

The Saipan Pacific Wind also won a gold medal in the instrumental category. Also founded by DeWitt, many members of Saipan Pacific Wind are also members of Manta Band.

DeWitt credited the amazing performance of the Saipan Pacific Wind band to its co-conductor, Christina Nierras. This was the first time that the group joined and actually bagged a gold medal for the division.

DeWitt said that Saipan Pacific Wind was formed to accommodate musicians who are not SSHS students.

Glee Club

The Koblerville Elementary School's Glee Club also emerged a big winner in the festival after bagging a gold in the choir competition. The group was also lauded as the festival's second best musical group after the Manta Ray Band.

See MANTA RAY on Page 4

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Interested firms are welcome to conduct a survey of the site.

This public notice is also available on our website at www.mplt.gov.mp. If there are any questions relative to this notice, interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Barbara Reyes during the hours stated above.

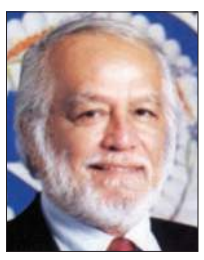
Voters will decide on Saipan casino

» Stanley, Ways and Means agree on initiative

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It will now be up to voters—again—whether to approve legalizing casino gambling on Saipan where voters had already twice rejected a similar proposal.

This latest development comes after casino bill author Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) and the House Ways and Means Committee, which is reviewing his House Bill 17-130, agreed to work on a casino initiative instead of pursuing their plans of introducing substitute or new casino bills.


Torres

"If it's the fastest way to move it, then I don't have a problem with it. Now we will get it out and people will decide on it," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Torres met separately with Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and other Ways and Means members last week, agreeing to introduce an initiative instead.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said allowing Saipan voters to decide on the casino issue is the best way to approach it rather than relying on the decision of 29 lawmakers.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), a Ways and Means Committee member, said the speaker himself recommends an initiative than pursuing casino bills.

"If it's a bill, he said he's reluctant to support it. I am glad he said that. Just like what House minority leader Benavente said, let the people decide. That's also the sentiment of the Senate," Palacios said.

Palacios said a casino initiative is expected to be pre-filed this week.

"There's already an elected attorney general initiative waiting to be acted on by voters. Hopefully, a CUC and Northern Marianas descent initiative and my initiative reducing the number of Saipan House members from 18 to nine will also be put on the ballot, along with a casino initiative," he said.

The freshman lawmaker said if more than one initiative will be on the ballot, there is a possibility that a special election will be held this year to address the initiatives.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), also a committee member, said giving the casino question back to the people might be a good idea.

"So there are no more questions about what the people really want. Yet I hope there is proper and sufficient public education conducted, as is needed with any initiative," he said.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the Commerce and Tourism Committee, said he had expressed to the Ways and Means Committee which he is a member of about his support for a casino initiative rather than a casino bill.

"I'm set for an initiative or nothing," he added.

The initiative talks came only a day after Torres said he will introduce a new casino bill, while the Ways and Means Committee was poised to substitute Torres's bill with that of Rep. Froilan Tenorio's casino bill introduced last year.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) said bills can always be amended, so there's no guarantee that proposed provisions to help protect and develop Tinian and Rota's existing casino industries will remain on the final version.

Conner also questioned the sincerity of foreign investors that expressed interest in operating casinos on Saipan.

"If they are sincere and if they are real, then why don't they come out in the open and introduce themselves to the public and to all lawmakers rather than only to some lawmakers," he said.

He said in his view, "it seems like it's a ploy to get a Saipan bill passed and enacted into law."

The House passed last year one of Tenorio's two controversial casino bill, only to be rejected by the Senate during a session on Tinian where residents strongly opposed passage of the bill.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the Fitial administration is not taking a position on the casino bills yet, but is rather relying at this time on what the Legislature intends to do on the matter.

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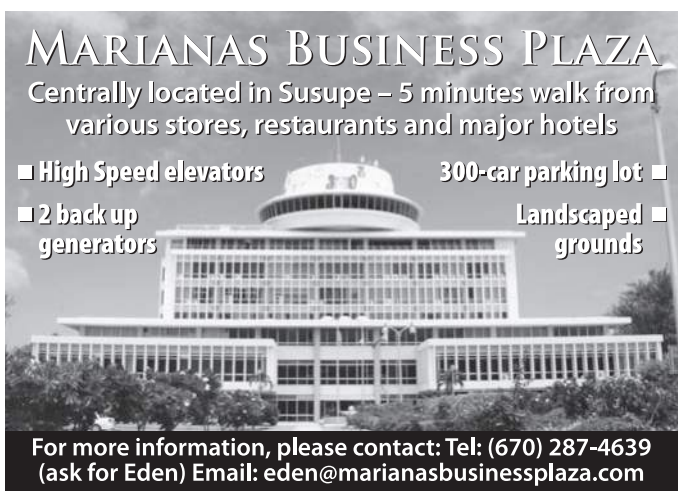
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MVA sees negative impact from Japan quake

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio yesterday said that the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan Friday would have an immediate negative impact on the Commonwealth's tourism industry—which is still banking on the Japanese travelers as its main visitors.

"We expect that there is going to be an outbound travel impact [to our tourism]. But at the moment, we're still trying to have a discussion and dialogue with our travel partners in Japan to see what these specific impact," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The tsunami in Japan brought the death toll in the region to over 500 as of yesterday and estimated damages ranged in billions of dollars as it washed away major infrastructure in the area.

Tenorio said that as soon as news broke out Friday, MVA advised its travel partners on island to secure the safety of passengers bound to Japan. He said those that were technically stranded at the airport were accommodated in hotels.

Narita airport, despite reports of no damage, remains closed, resulting in the cancellation of all inbound and outbound flights from different destinations.

Because the incident occurred during the weekend, Tenorio said it's been difficult for the agency to verify any information about Japan.

"I think what we need to do now is allow Japan to make the assessment of their situation," said Tenorio, adding that due to the situation, travel among Japanese may be the last thing on their mind.

TSUNAMI

From Page 1

followed instructions and they went to higher ground," Tudela told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said he did not get any information about serious incidents on both Tinian and Rota and presumes that the evacuation was also smooth.

The evacuation was prompted by the declaration of a tsunami warning for the CNMI in the aftermath of an 8.9 magnitude earthquake in Japan.

Tudela said that DPS did not receive any reports of major traffic accidents.

The Emergency Management Office issued the tsunami warning in its first bulletin issued Friday at 4:30pm after a powerful 8.9 earthquake hit Japan at 3:46pm.

The first EMO bulletin said the estimated arrival for the tsunami wave was 6:53pm that day. Subsequent bulletins placed the arrival time at 7:01pm.

The tsunami warning for the CNMI was not lifted until 10:50pm Friday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that there was a 2.6 feet change in normal tide levels that is believed to have been generated by the earthquake in Japan.

"This data was gathered following reports of receding water levels in the coastal areas of the Garapan Fishing Base and the Laly 4 Beach in Chalan Kanoa," Demapan said.

Police officers began advising residents and workers in low-lying areas to proceed to higher ground around 4:30pm. But it was only past 5pm when most people took the tsunami warning seriously after seeing on TV the massive destruction caused by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

At 6:35pm, except for six men casually walking along the Beach Road pathway near the former Island Garden in Garapan, *Saipan Tribune* observed that houses and commercial buildings along Beach Road were already closed.

At the time, one preposition ship on the Saipan lagoon had already left, while the second was seen moving away.

At 6:45pm, employees of San Jose Mart were seen closing the store after police officers advised them to move to safer ground.

Odette Tenorio, an employee of San Jose Mart, said they were really busy starting at 5pm as many customers purchased mostly canned foods.

Tenorio said she heard about the tsunami warning from their customers, radio, and TV.

Tenorio and her family proceeded to Capital Hill.

With stores along Beach Road and other low-lying areas forced to shut down, retail stores in San Vicente, Capital Hill, and others in safe zones enjoyed brisk sales.

Lan Lan Wang, owner of Twins Super Market in Dandan, said people mostly bought canned goods, cookies, and sobas.

"Nobody's buying frozen foods," Wang said.

She said it was her friend who notified her about the tsunami warning at 4:30pm.

Linda Lugue, 59, baker, was among those who got scared after seeing on TV the devastating damage brought by tsunami in Japan.

Lugue said she and co-workers immediately closed Marg's Kitchen in Susupe after their employer called them about the tsunami warning.

Lugue said they left on board two cars at 5:30pm and proceeded to Northern Marianas College.

Long lines of vehicles were still seen at Shell Gas Station near the Iglesia Church at 7:30pm.

TOURISM

From Page 1

Tourist arrivals in the CNMI in the last 19 years—from 1992 to 2010—show that CNMI had its highest number of visitors in 1996 at 728,000. At that time, Japanese visitors totaled 483,462, comprising 66.41 percent of total arrivals.

To show readers how dismaying the current arrival trend is: In 2010 alone, the islands only had 379,091 tourists, with 185,032 of them composed of Japanese visitors.

That is a plunge of 47.93 percent in total visitor arrivals when compared to the 1996 peak.

The picture becomes even bleaker when comparing Japanese arrivals alone, with the 2010 total representing a 61.73 percent plunge compared to the 1996 total Japanese arrivals.

Projected arrival figures this fiscal year is even lower, according to tourism officials, and with the devastating 8.9 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on Friday, the Marianas Visitors Authority is not banking on a banner year for Japanese tourism arrivals.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said yesterday that the wide-ranging disaster in Japan would have an immediate negative impact on the Commonwealth's tourism industry.

"We expect that there is going to be an outbound travel impact [to our tourism]. But at the moment, we're still trying to have a discussion and dialogue with our travel partners in Japan to see what these specific impacts are," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

To be sure, it's not as if everything is the CNMI's fault for its faltering tourism industry. The buying power of the Japanese market took a major hit during the Asian financial crisis in 1998. This was followed in quick succession by the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the SARS outbreak in 2003, the H1N1 flu outbreak in 2009, and the steadily rising cost of aviation fuel that made airline tickets pricier.

It was, however, the pullout of Japan Airlines from the Commonwealth in 2005 that dealt a doughty blow to the islands' tourism industry.

That year, Japanese arrivals totaled 376,263. The year after that, Japanese visitors totaled an anemic 269,780—a drop of 28 percent.

This was followed by the suspension of Northwest Airlines' daily flights from Osaka, Japan in October 2006 and the subsequent suspension of Continental flights.

MVA, in its tourism analysis for 2003 to 2010, cited the lack of air seats from Japan as among the top reasons for the Commonwealth's "dying industry."

Certainly the Japanese are not the CNMI's only visitors, with the islands playing host to a sizable number of tourists from Korea, China, Guam, Russia, and others. Records, however, show that a big bulk—more than half of all visitors—come from the top market of Japan.

In the last 10 years alone, Japanese tourists remain the most frequent visitors to the islands, forming the bread-and-butter of the islands' tourism industry and accounting for 70 percent of total arrivals. Korea is the second largest market; Guam comes third, followed by U.S. visitors and other markets.

Last FY 2010, Japan comprised 49 percent of overall NMI arrivals; Korea represented 31 percent; China, 11 percent; while the remaining 10 percent were shared by other markets.

What went wrong?

It was on Oct. 28, 2006 when Northwest Airlines suspended its daily flights from Osaka to Saipan, which resulted in a daily loss of 182 airline seats.

In April 2007, Northwest terminated its four-time weekly nighttime flights from Narita, which represented a loss of 1,720 seats per week.

These were in addition to the pullout of Japan Airlines to the CNMI in October 2005.

MVA reported that in 2007, arrivals from Japan accounted for 54 percent of the total arrivals and the lack of air seats from Japan continued to be the primary factor in the drastic reduction in overall arrivals.

Total arrivals continued to dip in 2009 when only 353,956 visited the CNMI. MVA said the key markets Japan and Korea were both heavily impacted by weaker currencies and economic uncertainties. It was also this year when H1N1 virus affected the overall travel overseas.

MVA disclosed that the figure recorded in FY 2010 from Japan market reflected the arrival level posted in 1988—over 18,000 visitors.

Throughout fiscal year 2010, MVA was faced with challenges from unstable airlift supply, price competition with its competitors, and limited marketing funds compared to competing destinations.

Low hotel occupancy rates

Because the tourism industry is closely tied with the hotel industry, the decline in tourist arrivals for the last 19 years has impacted the performance of the hotel establishments.

HANMI records show that hotels only had 62.63 percent occupancy in fiscal year 2010—way lower than the 78.10 percent noted when HANMI started keeping records in 1992.

Like arrival trends in the CNMI, hotel occupancy rates show the same declining pattern. At no point in the last 19 years has HANMI posted a 100-percent occupancy, with the highest at 85.57 percent in 1996.

The hotel association said that the low occupancy rate in 2005 showed the loss of JAL air service from Japan as well as Hong Kong and Taiwan service from Continental.

For 2006, the low rate was attributed to the loss of Northwest Airlines' Osaka flight.

NMI air seats vs. Japan air seats

Data obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that from fiscal years 2000 to 2010, the CNMI had the highest air seat capacity in 2003 and 2004 with 842,023 seats and 835,174 seats, respectively.

In 2001, total air seats for the CNMI was 692,035; 2002, 804,897 seats; 2003, 842,023; 2004, 835,174; 2005, 757,265; 2006, 611,673; 2007, 535,223; 2008, 557,663; 2009, 573,922; and 2010, 551,578 seats.

In the same 10-year period, the Japan market remained the source of majority of air seats for the Commonwealth: 399,943 seats in 2001; 474,188 in 2002; 530,807 in 2003; 518,763 in 2004; 441,032 in 2005; 311,679 in 2006; 248,271 in 2007; 254,710 in 2008; 302,385 in 2009; and 261,200 in 2010.

Due to the declining trend in arrivals and the continuing lack of air seats for the CNMI, tourism officials are projecting a much lower turnout this fiscal year.

Next: How the CNMI fares compared to Guam and Palau.

PRAYERS

From Page 1

friends recover from this enormous aftermath," Inos said in a statement yesterday. "Japan has done so many good things for our islands, it is now time for us to give back in any way we can. Please continue to keep the people of Japan in your prayers."

As of yesterday afternoon, the official death toll from the Japan quake and the tsunami it spawned was 763, although the death toll is expected to climb as rescue and recovery continue.

At least 639 were missing and 1,419 people injured. In one coastal town alone, some 9,500 people were unaccounted for.

"On behalf of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, I offer our most sincere condolences and profound prayers to the people of Japan—most especially, the family members of those who have perished, those who have been wounded, and those who remain unaccounted for at this time," Inos said.

Sablan, for his part, said the CNMI peoples' prayers go out to the people of Japan "who have suffered terribly" from the earthquake and tsunami on Friday.

"And I offer my deepest personal condolences to the families of the victims of this terrible event," he said.

Sablan, who is in Washington, D.C., also said the CNMI is fortunate to escape a tsunami despite the tsunami warning on Friday.

The acting governor said he has contacted Japan's Consul General for the CNMI, Tsutomo Higuchi, to formally convey the CNMI's condolences and continued prayers for the country and its people.

"We will work closely with Consul Higuchi's office to address the ongoing developments and relief efforts in Japan," he said.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said her prayers also go out to the people of Japan.

She wrote a letter to Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan president Kiyokazu Onishi, who is also the overall coordinator of the triathlon in the CNMI, to extend her condolences and sympathy to the Japanese people.

"The people of Rota and its leaders will keep you all in fervent prayer as Japan and its people weather out the severe destruction left behind by the earthquake and tsunami," Santos said.

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, said yesterday that those who want to help or donate could visit www.redcross.org or drop by the NMI Red Cross office at the Saipan airport area to drop off their donation.

"People have been asking how they could help. We have set up an account for those who want to help," he said.

MANTA RAY

From Page 2

The Koblerville school's Glee Club is composed of about 20 students and is directed by Karen Alla and John Jimeno. The group won the choir category for middle school division.

Worth it

In an interview with Rose Anna Sablan, a percussionist with the Manta Ray Band, she described the Guam festival as an energy-consuming task, but every accomplishment was worth all the work.

For Jesse Palacios, a flute player: "I've never experienced such a thrilling feeling with other people other than your blood-related family becoming your family. The band was awesome this year."

For trumpet player Bernard Bautista, the experience was exciting.

"I knew ever since the day I stepped into the band that I would have a future career as a musician. That's how much I care about music, and I know we all tried to do our best to accomplish something great, and even though we do or not, we know that music can always be played by everyone, and we can bond through the music," he said.

"Something is just different about this group; there's some vibe, some feeling, emotion, a connection worth it, which makes our music," said Donovan Tudela, bass clarinet.

Clarinet player John Craig Lamberto said he's truly proud of what the band achieved for themselves and the CNMI this year.

Kilili now ranking member of subpanel on insular areas

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who is only in his second term, is now the top minority member of the most important U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee for the CNMI and all other U.S. territories.

Kilili

On Thursday, Sablan was elected by the Democratic members of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee to be the ranking member of the House Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs.

This 16-member subcommittee under the House Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the CNMI and other insular areas.

"This is a remarkable opportunity to advance the interests of our islands. Insular area issues have traditionally been handled in a very bipartisan manner in Congress," Sablan said.

This is a key development, considering that the CNMI is in a period of transition to a federal immigration system, among other things.

Sablan is an independent but caucuses with the Democrats. He is serving his second term as the first CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. Congress.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, also a Democrat, used to chair the subcommittee but under a Republican Congress. By rules, Bordallo cannot hold two ranking posts. Bordallo is now the ranking member on the Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee, with Guam facing a military buildup.

U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen, the next ranking member, gave up her seat on the Natural Resources Committee after serving on that panel for 14 years, and a top spot on the insular affairs subcommittee, because she's back in the Energy and Commerce Committee last year.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee is an "exclusive one," meaning members are limited to serving on that panel alone.

See KILILI on Next Page

Ex-cop who allegedly beat up his ex-girlfriend set to change plea

A former police officer accused of beating up his former girlfriend inside the office of Sen. Paul Manglona on Capital Hill is set to change his not guilty plea.

Victor Val Borja Hocog is scheduled to appear at the Rota Superior Court on May 6, 2011, for a change of plea hearing.

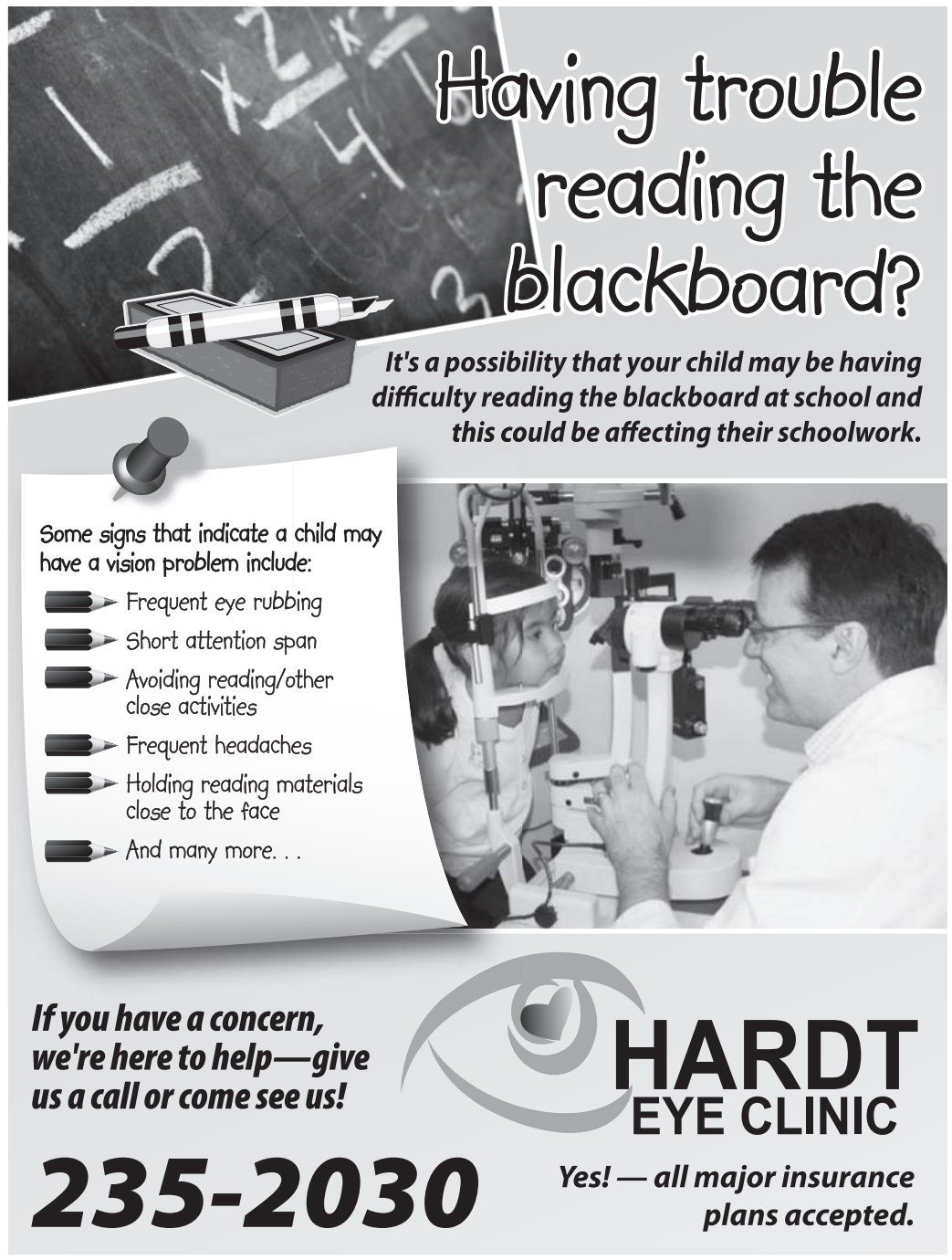
Assistant public defender Adam Miles is serving as Hocog's counsel.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged the 36-year-old Hocog with assault and battery, attempted kidnapping, kidnapping, assault and battery, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

Police investigation showed that on Sept. 29, 2009, on Saipan, Hocog went inside the office of Sen. Manglona, where Hocog's ex-girlfriend works. He allegedly locked the door and then choked and slapped the victim.

The Legislature's sergeant-at-arms broke down the door to get in. The victim ran outside but Hocog chased her and allegedly tried to strangle her.

Hocog managed to flee before the arrival of police officers. He was arrested later and was allegedly found in possession of "ice." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-11-021

SURVEYED VEHICLES

The office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC surveyed vehicles located in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Interested bidders must bid on all vehicles specified, for either Saipan, Tinian or Rota; or bid on all vehicles specified on all three Islands.

The bid form, list of surveyed vehicles and other relevant information may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Four (4) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-11-021, CUC SURVEYED VEHICLES"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 A.M. ChST, March 17, 2011,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Prospective bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles to the prospective bidder in a **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting this transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the properties.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), **March 11, 2011** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, via email msablan@cucgov.net or Joseph M. Fejeran, Purchasing Specialist via email jfejeran@cucgov.net.

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SSHS wins congressional mock trial competition

»22-member group to advance to national contest in DC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 22-member team of Saipan Southern High School emerged champion in this year's congressional mock trial competition held Saturday at the Guma Hustisia.

The team bested three team opponents—Mount Carmel School, Rota High School, and Kagman High School—to win the right to represent the Commonwealth in the national tilt to be held in Washington, D.C. late next month.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Saipan Southern High School team members pose with their coaches after bagging the championship award Saturday at the fourth annual congressional mock trial competition held at the Guma Hustisia. The 22-member group will advance to the national event next month in Washington, D.C.

The competition forms part of the "We the People" program, which gives students comprehensive instruction on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. The program is designed to promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a constitutional democracy.

In Saturday's event, students demonstrated their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, and public officials.

According to one of Saipan Southern High School's coaches, Gerald Russell, the team spent about seven weeks to prepare for the competition.

"They really worked hard for this…and it all paid off," said Russell, adding that the students are excited to be in the national event slated on April 28 to May 2 in Washington, D.C.

The winning team was coached by Russell, Justice John Manglona, Judge Ramona Manglona, attorney Steven Gardner, and student coach Rita Villagomez.

Rita Villagomez said it feels great to be part of the championship team. "I am very proud of what we achieved today," she said, assuring that the team will work twice as hard for the national event.

The 22-member group is composed of sophomore, junior, and senior students.

For senior SSHS student Melvin Castro, Saturday's competition will be one of the memorable moments he will cherish after high school.

"This is my last year in SSHS and my first time in the team. I've never been to the national event and…this is basically the highlight of my senior year and I am excited," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He admitted to having a very limited knowledge about the U.S. Constitution prior to joining the group. "Through this competition, I learned a lot about the U.S. Constitution and how these constitutional rights are applied here."

Rachel Sumor, another first-timer to the national competition, is looking forward to their D.C. trip. "After what we went through for this competition, I felt relieved. The outcome is just amazing and we're very happy," she said.

This year marks SSHS' second time to join the contest.

The Public School System has been hosting the competition for four years now. Marianas High School topped the maiden launch of the contest in 2008. Last year, MCS defended its title.

Members of the CNMI team who will advance to the national competition in D.C. include Carmen Borja, Hannah Isabel Shai, Chelsea Borja, Preeyanuch (Miki) Roberto, Ji Hyun Kim, Melvin Castro, Simon McEntee, Patricia Palacios, Shelane Borja, Rachel Sumor, Joseph Jung, Doyi Lee, Jane Rhee, Richie Xu, Shanie Camacho, Elvira Manglona, Randall Abigania, Ashley Alejo, Desiree Cepeda, Zachary Sablan, Lallane Guiao, and Rita Villagomez.

KILILI

From Page 5

Status of foreign workers

Sablan's election as subcommitee ranking member comes as he is set to meet with CNMI senators this week in Washington, D.C. to help them personally hand over to other key members of Congress the CNMI Senate recommendation to Congress to grant improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

The CNMI senators recommend granting foreign workers who have been in the CNMI at least 10 years as of May 2008 an immigration status similar to those given to Freely Associated States citizens.

Sablan said he has already met on several occasions this year with the subcommittee chairman, Rep. John Fleming (R-LA), "to talk about implementation of federal immigration and other issues of importance to the Northern Marianas."

"Now that I have been selected to be the lead Democrat on the Subcommittee, I will work hard to build that relationship with the chairman so that together we can address the concerns of the Northern Marianas and all the insular areas. In addition to insular matters the Subcommittee has jurisdiction over national fisheries, wildlife, and oceans policies," Sablan said.

He also thanked the Natural Resources Ranking Member Ed Markey (D-MA), who leads the caucus, and the other 18 Democrats for entrusting him with this responsibility.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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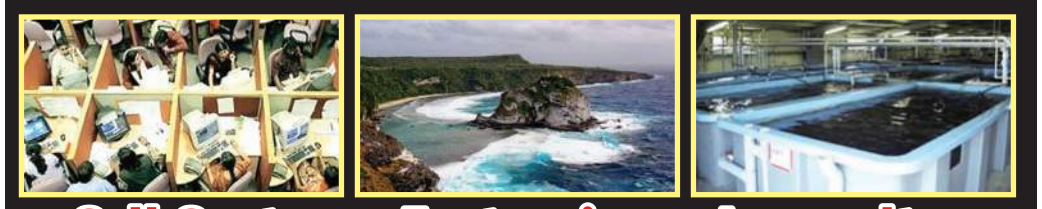
"Industries for our Future"



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CNMI citizen corps

Rota schools enjoy sweeping victory in first recipe contest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two schools from the island of Rota enjoyed sweeping victories during the CNMI-wide "Eat Right With Color" Recipe Contest on Saturday at the Ironwood Grounds of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

The teams from Sinapalo Elementary School and Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior High School emerged overall winners for the primary and secondary levels respectively.

Both schools were among the 13 participating teams that competed in five categories: healthy snack, salad, *pupus* or appetizer, vegetarian, and main entrée.

All entries were judged based on the number of local produce and colors presented in the recipe, taste, creativity, presentation, and nutrition content.

Vicente Patrick Deleon Guerrero's concoction called Island-Style Fruit Salad, which garnered a total of 777 points, won the healthy snack category.

A third grader of Sinapalo Elementary School, Deleon Guerrero said it was his mother who taught him the recipe that contains 14 different kinds of fruits, 13 of which are locally grown.

Deleon Guerrero's mother, Benett Deleon Guerrero, said they were surprised with their victory because they did not expect to win.

"I'm so shocked. We weren't expecting to win. We were just here to enjoy and have fun. I'm proud of all the efforts of our family," Benett told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the experience was also a bonding moment for both mother and son.

According to Benett, she encouraged her son to join the contest to make him realize the benefits of healthy eating.

"I don't want him to fall into the side of juvenile diabetes," she said, adding that they plan to join next year's competition for fun.

Of the 14 ingedients in his fruit salad, Vicente Patrick Deleon Guerrero's favorite is pineapple.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Third-grade student Vicente Patrick Deleon Guerrero of Sinapalo Elementary School in Rota, second from left, is all smiles after winning the healthy snack and overall primary school categories for the Eat Right With Color Recipe Contest on March 12. With him are his mother Benett Deleon Guerrero, Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, and Lynette Villagomez of the Public School System Central Office.

Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior High School's Thomas Manglona bagged the overall secondary level and *pupus* categories after earning 613 points for his Wahoo Kelaguen.

The seventh grade said the recipe, which is on the menu of their restaurant on Rota called Barefoot Tavern, was also taught him by his mother.

"I just find cooking very fun," Manglona said, adding that he has been eating fruits and vegetables even before joining the contest.

The two overall winners each won $50 in cash and vouchers, including PIC Water Park and Megazone passes.

Other category winners were Sinapalo Elementary School for the salad category for its entry International Salad, which garnered 605 points; Kagman High School, vegetarian category, for their Ratatouille Island Style, 502 points; and Kagman High School, main entrée category, Spicy Grilled Chicken with Sweet Mashed Potatoes and Papaya Salsa, 586 points.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Seventh-grader Thomas Manglona, second from left, of Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior High School is flanked by Public School System officials led by Education Commissioner Rita Sablan after he was announced the overall winner for secondary schools during the Eat Right With Color Student Recipe Contest last Saturday. Manglona also won the pupus or appetizer category for his Wahoo Kelaguen.

"The turnout was awesome," said PSS nutritionist Hee Jae Lee. "Over 150 community members showed up to take part in this exciting event."

Lee said the Nutrition Month celebration will continue with the healthy lunch promotion among local restaurants and food vendors on island.

Another cooking competition, this time for parents and teachers, is in the works, to be held sometime in May.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-064

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"GOVERNMENT OFFICE COOL ROOF PROGRAM FOR DEPARMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENERGY OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD LOCATED ON THE THIRD (3RD) FLOOR OF THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA OFFICE #315, SUSUPE OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO govt_cool_roof@recovery.gov.mp.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. ALFREDA CAMACHO VIA EMAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp OR FAX TO (670) 234-3016 **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MARCH 23, 2011.**

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/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-063

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
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GTC holds 'Young Scientists Fair'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School recognized its young inventors and their creations during its "Young Scientists Fair" that showcased 16 outstanding projects on campus Friday.

This year's fair had seven categories, with the top seven entries representing GTC in the Public School System's Science and Technology and Mathematics (STEM) Fair that will be held this week.

Patricia Deleon Guerrero, one of the fair's coordinators, said the 16 GTC entries were chosen from a pool of science projects submitted by second to sixth graders that met the criteria and guidelines of the competition.

Their inventions will be displayed in the school's cafeteria throughout this week until the top seven winners are announced.

There are seven categories in this year's contest: life science, physical science, earth and space science, health nutrition and medical, technology and electronics, mathematics, and behavioral and social science.

Deleon Guerrero believes that this year's entries exhibit higher qualities and inventiveness.

"I think we have more entries this year that qualify and met all the criteria. We feel as teachers that they followed the scientific procedures and methods, developed background research, and have originality and simplicity," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Students have been working on their science projects since December, and Deleon Guerrero believes that this helped boost the quality of entries.

The PSS island-wide science fair competition is slated on March 18-20 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Top winners will represent the CNMI in a similar competition in Guam in May.

GTC's Young Scientists Fair aims to make students apply the knowledge they have learned in the classroom and expose them to science procedures and scientific methods. It aims to make students become problem-solvers, effective communicators, and gain high order thinking skills.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Editha Agustin, who is celebrating her birthday today, March 14, 2011! May you have many more blessings to come. Greetings come from your friends and family.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950 • Telephone no. (670)236-0903 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0990

NOTICE OF CLOSURE
UNPAID AWARD AND BOND CLAIMS

Monday, March 7, 2011 first notice
Monday, March 14, 2011, second notice

No further action will be taken with respect to the claims listed below because each appears, from records available to the Department, to be uncollectible for one or more of the following reasons: (1) the employer against whom the order was issued is insolvent or no longer in business or no longer in the Commonwealth, or no person involved with the employer as an officer or director is available in the Commonwealth or can be held personally liable, or there are no known remaining assets of the employer in the Commonwealth; (2) no bond is available because the employment was illegal (and the order to pay was issued on a *quantum meruit* basis) and no bond was obtained by the employer, or the bonding company is insolvent or no longer in business or no longer in the Commonwealth, or no person involved with the bonding company as an officer or director is available in the Commonwealth or can be held personally liable, or there are no known remaining assets of the bonding company in the Commonwealth; and (3) no governmental entity has any liability whatsoever for claims arising out of labor contracts between two private parties.

The umbrella permit of each alien listed below has been reclassified by the Labor Department as of the date of the first notice from "claim pending" to "240K, work authorized" and continues in force through November 27, 2011. No action is needed by the claimant; this is done automatically on the Department's records. If you have settled your claim, your umbrella permit has been reclassified automatically when the Department received notice of the payment and nothing further is required.

With respect to each claimant, the underlying agency case, labor case, or denial case which resulted in the order to pay (that claimant asserts has not been collected) has been closed by final order of the Department. The Department issued public notices with respect to administrative procedures for collection on bonds in these claims. Each of these claims was processed, pursuant to a filing by the claimant, and that processing was completed in nearly all cases in 2009.

THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF UNPAID AWARDS IN LABOR CASES OF ANY KIND STILL PENDING IN THE DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS. All claims with respect to unpaid awards arising out of labor cases were required to be declared prior to the deadline for issuing umbrella permits. All persons who declared unpaid claims were issued umbrella permits regardless of whether they were in status or out of status at the time.

This determination as to these claims has been made from the best information available to the Commonwealth. A person affected by this determination has fifteen (15) days from the date of second notice in which to present, in writing, to the Administrative Hearing Office, any information relevant to collectability of the claim. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person. This determination does not preclude or affect in any way any cause of action brought by the claimant in the Commonwealth courts. This publication does not affect any case or appeal with respect to labor bond claims currently pending in the Superior Court or any other court.

CLAIMANT	LIIDS NO.	Bond claim/ labor case no.
Abadilla, Ariel	103741	09-074
Abaygar, Zenaida	112336	
Abiendo, Alicia Q.	118359	09-040
Ahmed, Suhel	174669	LC 97-239
Alvaro, Edilberto C.	176210	09-039
Aque, Diosdado A.	127284	09-004
Aquino, Lucila G.	282351	LC 05-112
Ararao, Jimy	141131	09-072
Baing, Ambrosio V.	125774	09-001
Baltazar, Luzviminda	103094	
Bautista, Alexander	126099	09-017
Bernido, Marlon (or Marion)	117288	09-074
Bonoan, Johnson	135078	09-079
Briones, Warlito	110861	09-052
Cabalza, Lucille S.	105411	09-008
Capina, Araceli V.	205332	09-081
Casabuena, Amorsolo D.	112206	
Casapao, Juliana J.	282743	09-003
Chai, Feng Qi	122465	09-048
Che, Gang Hui	285558	09-041
Chen, Fei Fei	280154	09-035
Chen, Jian Hua	190921	09-014
Chen, Yan Qin	155057	09-015
Cui, Jing Zhu	298298	09-021
Cui, Wen Bi	113247	LC 08-180
Dabu, Juanito M.	120891	09-074
Dacucos, Imelda	182520	09-047
De Guzman, Jennifer	123361	CAC 08-249-08
Delos Santos, Mercedes	120755	09-071
Delos Santos, Yolanda	123949	09-037
Deng, Li Fang	157411	09-034
Ding, Guozheng	197862	09-027
Doctolero, Adela	285833	09-082
Domingo, Marcelina T.	174623	CAC 08-249-08
Drilon, Ariel Atayde	188829	09-074
Ebdane, Rodolfo S.	108935	LC 08-102
Elayda, Ramon A.	122255	
Elloso, Rolando	103913	09-069
Enriquez, Meriam	302390	09-013
Enriquez, Ricardo	288010	09-029
Fan, Chun Yan	197104	09-064
Fang, Juan Ping	285221	09-055
Felipe, Josephine	163805	09-023
Fernando, Feminencio	110776	09-053
Flores, Joselito B.	112974	LC 03-348
Francisco, Rodolfo M.	113200	LC 06-197
Gallar, Quirino	107371	
Gamelo, Felizardo	122980	09-019
Gautam, Kamala	204114	09-025
Genobaten, Edgar F.	195214	09-074
Gong, Jin Fang	181115	CAC 05-917-09
Gong, Zhen Pei	190925	
Gu, Jian Hua	310442	09-051
Guo, Li Yin	156577	
Guzman, Andres G.		CAC 02-098-12
Heneral, Anita D.	112361	CAC 05-023-03

CLAIMANT	LIIDS NO.	Bond claim/ labor case no.
Hossain, Monir		CAC 97-027-02
Hu, Gui Hua	287734	09-034
Huang, Feng Xia	171405	09-016
Huang, Hai Bin	171408	
Huang, Ruiang	202259	09-020
Huang, Ruiang	202259	09-083
Huang, Shi Zhong	290355	
Ibanez, Nilo D.	113822	CAC 02-098-12 etc.
Inot, Rafael A.	172745	
Isidro, Rommel C.	186879	09-005
Isidro, Ryan C.	186876	
Jacela, Jonathan P.	281589	
Jin, Cai Ping	181883	09-034
Jin, Cheng Quan	298356	09-061
Khalequzzaman	133394	CAC 97-109-08
Khan, MD Leakat Ali	125268	09-026
Kiseo, Salvador	100477	09-024
Lacson, Bernabe R.	143668	
Li, Ai Min	143364	09-034
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Li, Dan Yun	159051	
Li, Guang Chun	135833	
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Lian, Wan Long	180740	09-070
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Lin, Mei Can	138317	09-067
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Pulido, Marilou	128752	09-082
Qian, Mei Ling	194838	09-077
Qian, Xiao Li	201225	09-018
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Shi, De Sheng	296304	LC 07-183
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Yang, Feng Xiang	154216	09-034
Yang, Han Ju	118363	09-034
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Zheng, Feng Rong		LC 98-402
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Zhou, Tie Gang	294128	09-046

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 14, 2000

MVA to produce video showcasing CNMI

The Marianas Visitors Authority will be producing a 30-minute promotional video that will showcase the different tourists spots of the Northern Marianas. In its recent meeting, the MVA board had approved a $47,000 budget for the production of a video, which will allow a 10-minute exposure for each of the islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian. MVA Managing Director Perry J. Tenorio said the finished product will be distributed to various travel agencies in Japan and Korea to help them in marketing the CNMI.

Bill to make CNMI a retirement haven OK'd in Senate

To bolster the bid by the CNMI to become a haven for retirees from other countries, the Senate has set into action a proposal to permit local practice by foreign doctors who can attend to the medical needs of these elderly people. The bill proposed by Senate President Paul A. Manglona will complement an earlier law signed by the governor, which led to the creation of retirement communities on the island for foreigners. Called the Foreign Doctors Licensure Act of 2000, SB 12-56 passed on final reading during a Senate session held Friday on Rota, and now heads to the House of Representatives for voting.

Mar. 14, 2001

CUC stands pat on disconnection order

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has reiterated that power supply in all government offices on Tinian and Rota will remain disconnected unless payments are made. This came in a form of a directive addressed to utility officials on Tinian and Rota, who were reminded that CUC regulations require that payments should be made before any service is restored. As a result of this directive, government operations on Rota and Tinian remain interrupted until yesterday despite commitments made by the finance department to set aside $800,000 monthly flat-rate utility payments.

Pacific isles join forces to combat smuggling

CNMI's Customs Division has agreed to work and share information with 19 other Pacific countries and territories in combating the traffic of contraband around the region. In support of this end, the customs agencies around the region are set to come up with a memorandum of agreement to formalize the partnership. Police and immigration officials are said to be cooperating in the framing of the manifesto agreed during the 3rd Annual Conference of the Oceania Customs Organization. Customs Director Jose C. Mafnas noted the agreement was borne out of concern to the growing threat posed by illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, money laundering, tobacco and alcohol smuggling, endangered species smuggling and intellectual property rights infringement.

Mar. 14, 2002

PCB treatment to resume soon

As the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration prepares to release its preliminary findings on the fatal PCB treatment incident within the month, the Army Corps of Engineers said it is anticipating the resumption of treatment operations very soon. This, as the Environmental Protection Agency awaits the results of the remaining batches of the proof performance tests for the indirect thermal desorption machine, since the tests were conducted sometime last January. "The Corps is committed to safely continuing the project and bringing it to a successful completion. Accordingly, the Corps will not permit operation of the ITD unit to resume until all necessary changes have been implemented and tested," a statement released by the Army Corps said.

LPG firm to invest on Tinian

Saipan Industrial Gas, Inc. recently submitted to the Commonwealth Ports Authority its investment proposal amounting to $40,000 in plant, equipment and products to be put on Tinian. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said SIGI official Antonio H. Lopez provided the Enforcement/Lease Compliance office of the ports authority the needed requirements for its project. SIGI's sister company, the Tinian Gas Inc., which will soon to be erected on the island, has already submitted its schematic drawings of the proposed project, including the possible construction of a larger facility, should the business climate improves. "I do not see Tinian Gas investing in a larger facility anytime soon, although we are interested in leasing a larger lot in any event as well," said Lopez in a letter addressed to CPA.

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Opinion

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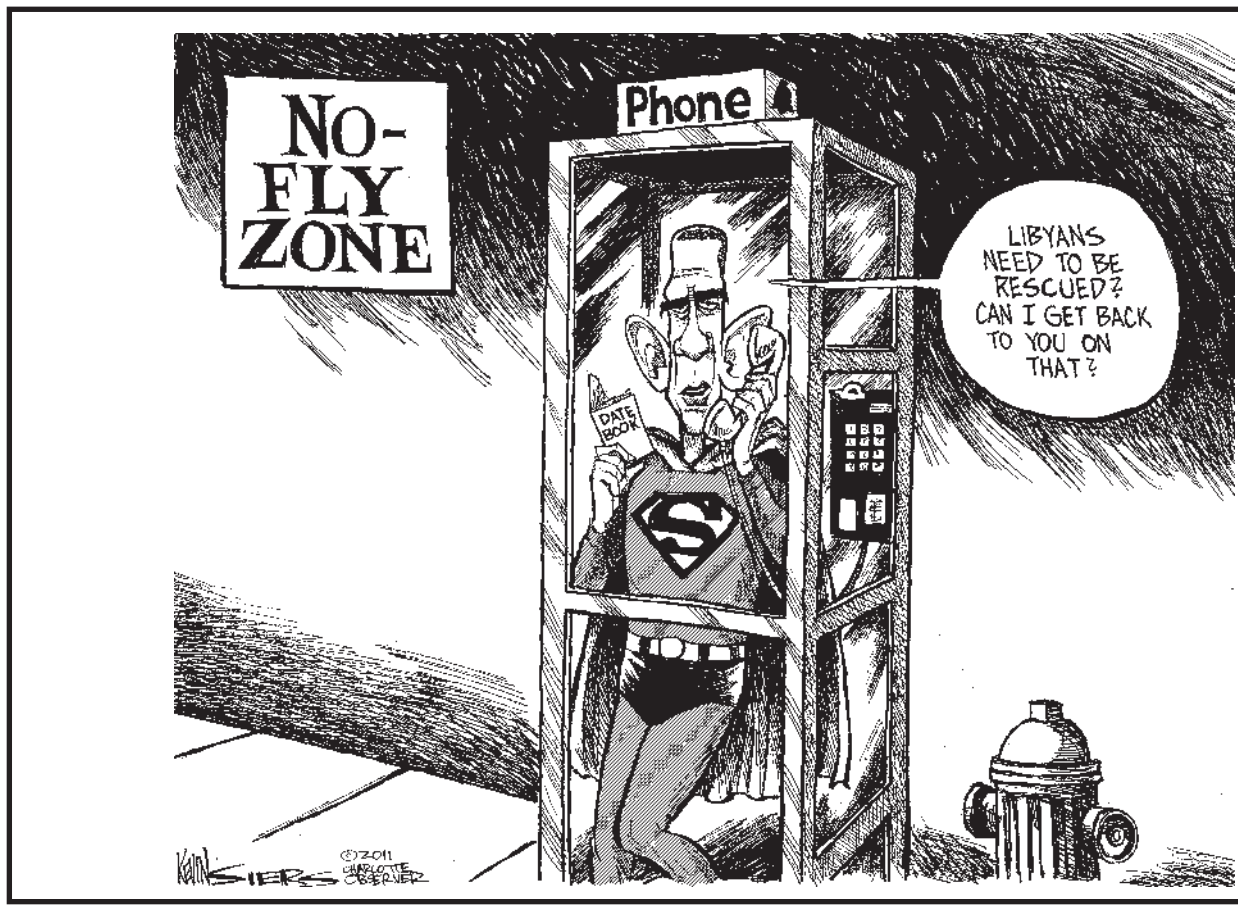

Health care repeal will hurt people with disabilities

By MIKE ERVIN
The Progressive Media Project

Mike Ervin is a disability-rights activist with ADAPT (www.adapt.org). He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine. Readers may write to the author at: Progressive Media Project, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; e-mail: pmproj@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org.

The cynical attempts by Republicans to repeal or block implementation of the Affordable Care Act in its entirety would hurt Americans with disabilities.

First, House Republicans passed a bill that would annul President Obama's health-care reform law. This measure didn't get through the Senate, so now the House budget proposal for the remainder of the current fiscal year aims to render the law useless by prohibiting funds to pay the salary of employees or contractors working on implementation of the act.

There are two vital provisions in the health-care law that are the result of pressure exerted by activists with disabilities.

One is the Community First Choice Option. States that choose to participate in this program will receive additional federal assistance to pay for programs supporting people with disabilities who receive long-term care assistance in their homes and communities rather than in nursing homes and institutions.

This is important because at a time when nearly every governor is complaining about how the cost of providing Medicaid services is a crushing budget burden, this is an opportunity for state governments to receive millions of added federal dollars.

The other provision is the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports plan. It creates a new source besides Medicaid for paying for community-based long-term care. It's funded through voluntary payrolls deductions.

This is important because people who acquire disabilities and find themselves in need of assistance won't have to suddenly impoverish themselves to be eligible for Medicaid if they pay into the fund.

These tremendous provisions will make a huge positive impact on the lives of millions of Americans with disabilities. But if the whole health care act gets wiped out or eviscerated by lack of funding, as the GOP wants, it would be an awful setback.

I'm not crazy about the mandate requiring everyone to purchase health insurance without a reasonable public option.

But much of the health care law is worth fighting for—especially these provisions for disabled Americans.

Better trained local employees, better production

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The minimum wage is now $5.05 and hour. Almost daily I hear ranting and raving by many business people: "Oh, what shall I do? How can my business survive? How will I survive the next raise?" Let's examine this situation. Perhaps there is a rainbow that brightens up our sky if we look correctly.

There is a law in economics called the law of diminishing returns. Simply explained, it states that by adding more and more resources, people, or money to a project does not necessarily make the project more successful or completed faster. In the whole operation there comes a point that by adding more resources or more people will actually make the project slower and less productive rather than improve it. There is a point at which more produces less.

Let's use the example such as watering a plant. We realize that a certain amount of water will allow the plant to grow healthy. But if we continue to add more and more water to the plant in the belief that more water will make the plant grow faster and healthier, shortly we will notice that instead of growing, the plant will begin to wilt. The extra water actually begins to destroy the plant because the soil becomes waterlogged.

How does this apply to our local and nonresident workforce? With the implementation of federalization, we have already begun to notice many contract workers returning to their countries. This seems to some a problem, but not if we study how work has been done by nonresident workers. Because wages have been kept low, it has been possible to employ many laborers instead of using modern technology and modern tools. Here is an example.

Examine the high number of laborers required to construct anything here, house of road. Most of the work is done manually except for bulldozer work and heavy lifting jobs. Sand is sifted by hand. Nails are driven by hammers. Paint brushes are used instead of spray guns. Hand-saws cut wood instead of electric saws. On and on. Too much manual work by too many laborers.

Let's visit a construction site such as a house being built in Hawaii or in the mainland. I was personally involved in several projects in Hawaii where only a handful of workers built complete houses. I witnessed roads being carved out and paved with only a handful of workers.

Most of the workers are skilled in their particular trades. The workers use modern tools to do the job. For example, how many carpenters on Saipan use skill-saws? How many use chipping guns? Have you seen a carpenter use an electric sanding machine on the job site? How many of them use a pneumatic nailing gun? Have you noticed how sand is sifted? Have you seen someone painting with a spray gun here? How many have graduated from a trades school? Though these workers are dedicated and hard working, unfortunately many of their work habits and techniques are slow and outdated.

As a result, low minimum wage must be paid because of so many workers. Do we really need 30 to 40 workers to build a two- or three-bedroom house? By using highly skilled workers with modern tools, we can utilize fewer workers. By paying them higher wages, the work will progress smoother and be of better quality.

Let me cite a personal example. When I was building my personal residence in Hawaii, I hired a project manager. After reviewing the project, he laid out his plans. For masonry work he hired a few masons. As they were finishing, he had the next group come in, the carpenters. When they finished he had the electricians, plumbers, followed by the painters, etc. While this was going on, he ordered material, furniture and other supplies he would need. There never were more than five or six men working at one time. The house was completed in only eight months with a sparse crew.

I duplicated the same procedure on Saipan when I constructed my personal residence on Capitol Hill. I hired an American contractor who did exactly as the one had done in Hawaii. He hired the specialty trades as and when he needed. As a result he finished my house on time and within budget in less than 10 months.

Yes, by proper worker training, motivation, and proper planning, there is no need for excess workers. Another example of worker motivation coupled by incentives are the employees at Saipan Ice and Water Company. In 2010, we reduced our workforce by 40 percent. Yet sales and production increased with less but highly motivated employees. It can be done with the proper training and proper tools. No, I am not Mr. Know-It-All, but I experiment searching for new and better ways.

Another example is often seen in a restaurant. Do we really need all the waiters and waitresses? I have noticed that the more of them in a restaurant, the worse the service is. Why do restaurants in the mainland use fewer waiters and fewer kitchen help? Could it be that they are better trained thereby work more efficiently? This results in savings for the owner, better salaries for employees, and better service for the customers.

When I lived in Tokyo years ago, wages were very low. Every department store had about 10 girls behind small counters serving customers. As wages were raised some of the girls disappeared. However, sales amounts stayed the same. I have noticed the same in Honolulu and in Los Angeles. Next time when we go to Guam look for this. Do the stores employ a lot employees?

When employees are properly trained and paid a decent wage, they are motivated. As a result their work performance is high and faster. How many of us business owners learn to treat our employees fairly and decently? Instead, haven't we become spoiled using cheap and plentiful docile nonresident workers thinking that it is a blessing. When they don't perform up to our expectations, we

See BETTER on Next Page

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Tsunami

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

We received a frantic call from a Chinese friend on Saipan Friday afternoon. She was at the CK Post Office and everyone was hurried out by DPS to seek higher ground as a tsunami warning was in effect. Her colleagues in low-lying CK packed their belongings and headed for the airport. Living close to NMC's higher ground, "I went to bed fully dressed with suitcase packed in case I needed to head out of the island as well," she said.

The devastation that visited Japan this Friday is considerably worse than the frenzied fear that normally accompanies a tsunami warning on Saipan. Rightfully, EMO and DPS will not take any chances. A temporary boon to retailers of consumables, the clambering to higher ground has marginal advantage of momentary commercial adrenalin to entertain an erstwhile laidback island lifestyle.

Videos on TV streaming out of Japan move even the most stalwart anti-Nippon amongst us. Of my teaching colleagues who handle Japanese, Russian, and English languages, the Nihonggo contingent is the most established with half a dozen tutors in place and offices besides. The English instructors are a Brit and a Canuck, a bona fide Gringo and an AmerChinese, then me (or I, if we are going to be proper)—a Pinoy from Saipan who is technically a resident of Hawaii. We do not know each other, nor do we have offices. So far, we have not had a chance to socialize though classes commenced, but the Japanese instructors take longest to warm up to, a historical bias, according to a few students.

In our introductions on the first day of my English class, I asked the students to identify where they are from and as expected, majority are from Shenyang and its environs in Liaoning Province. None of my 32 students in one class ever heard of Mukden of the Sept. 18 incident, a reference I made in my context, that began Japan's Manchukuo, save one student who identified the term as the name "the foreigners call Shenyang."

Indeed, Shenyang is known as Shingking to the Manchus, and Mukden was probably given by the Russians who also gave the name Dalian near Port Arthur at the coast, and Harbin in Heilongjiang, before it was popularized by Imperial Japan in its attempt to turn the non-Han Manchuria into a Japanese immigration destination.

The tsunami that has devastated Japan Friday has caused major damage. Though Chinese still refer to the Japanese as the "marauding bandits and seafaring pirates" in popular cinema, this latest occurrence is drawing a new sense of empathy within China not dissimilar to the sentiments expressed from foreign sources in the quakes of Sichuan and Qinghai of the last two years.

In the same vein as the Chinese decided to handle the relief and reconstruction programs themselves, if there is a nation that is prepared internally to deal with quakes and tsunamis that would be Japan. Though the UN announced that 32 teams from around the world are ready to assist, their welcome, if extended, will most likely be for diplomacy and friendship rather than efficacy of logistical support.

Which brings us to why we are writing this piece to begin with. Two paradigm shifts of tsunami proportions are happening in our glocal consciousness these days.

The first is ecological. The suspicion that frequency of tectonic movements in the last decade is triggered by the additional water weight in our oceans due to the melting of the polar caps is inevitable. With the current suspicion that our divergent weather patterns is influenced by climate change, maybe we may listen to our human intuition (not fear) and intensify our pursuit for scientific explanations, skewing doomsday pronouncements out of Mayan calendars and apocalyptic literature!

The second follows from the first. Industrial civilization has been dependent on oil in the last 150 years to undergird global trade and commerce. Before that, it was extraction of minerals (gold and silver) that motivated Spain and Portugal to extend their empires, and consumer goods for England as financial services is to the United States, kept both nations at the head of the line to define their global preeminence.

Now, we are back to the extraction and utilization of natural capital as the basic resource of commerce and trade, precious metals no longer at the service of fanciful jewelry but in the service of cyberspace technology. Clean air, potable water and accessible oil in the service of human survival rather than the empowerment of the few over the docile resignation of the many, is an emerging ethos in global economy.

There are more tsunamis on the horizon. The geological "ring of fire" that extends from the southern tip of Chile through the western shores of the Americas up to Alaska and down the Aleutian-Kamchatka-Kuril chains through Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua-New Guinea and New Zealand is home to 90 percent of the world's current active volcanoes; it promises more tremors for many years to come.

Realization of our glocal interdependence is no longer just an option. Planet Eaarth exceeds its holding capacity at a ratio of 1.5 human population per 1 hospitable celestial body. We are either to learn to make do with what we have for everyone, or else look for another friendly planet to where some of us might have to migrate!

BETTER

From Page 10

mumble, "Well, what more can we expect from them?"

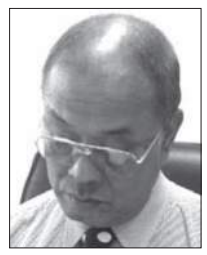
Let's do some simple math concerning wages. If we hire three employees at $5.05 per hour, it will cost us $15.15 per hour times 160 hours per month which totals $2,424.00. However should we motivate and train two of them to do the same work of three, what is our benefit? $10.10 times 160 hours equal $1,616.00 for a saving of $808.00 per month.

Now share some of that with the two employees by paying them perhaps $6.50 per hours. Thus $13 times 160 hours per month equals $2,080.00. We still save $344.00 per month. The results: highly motivated employees, better customer service, savings for us, and best of all, fewer headaches. Frankly speaking, we can do with fewer employees once we accept this hard fact. We must work toward improving our employee-employer relationship.

We must wean ourselves of the constant begging from Uncle Sam for more and more handouts. Frankly speaking, when we accomplish this, we will have grown up as a nation. We must create our own economy. Once we do that no one can take it away. We will also be able to participate along in the benefits of foreign investors instead of being passive observers.

More cheap labor—whether local or foreign—is not the answer. Better trained and skilled workers are the answer. More doesn't mean better. But fewer skilled workers earning decent wages mean a stronger economy and a better livelihood for all of us. This would greatly help our sagging economy. I repeat—fewer but better trained and motivated employees means better productivity and profits! We cannot go wrong with skilled and motivated workers. But they need to be paid decently. Think about it then try out the suggestions above. See for yourself.

Gi Finatton Tiempon Kuaresma



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Gi mapos na Mietkoles i tutuhon tiempon kuaresma. Estague' na tiempo 'nai i mañgilisyanu matutuhon chechu pinitensia. Este na tiempo hagas patte gi kutturan relihion Kagtoliku guine. Mauleg ta bisita hafa sustansian tiempon kuaresma.

Hu taitai kuattro patte gi biblia yan 'nos kuantos leblo pot para baihu komprende hafa tinagu' i Saina deste as San Pedro esta as Moses gi tautau siha deste antigu na tiempu.

Finenina, i Saina ha appunta si San Pedro kumu tahgueña guine gi tanu. Dispues ha otdin si Moses nu i mafanana'an Dies na Tinago Yuus. Ha tagu si Moses para u kone i Israelitas ginen Ehiptu (Egypt) pot para una' fan libre siha ginen tratamienton esklabu.

Todo finachucho'ña pot i man-namase', man-malañgo, man-inutet; man-arastrao yan man-matrarata kumu esklablu; todu pot todu para una' fan libre i tautau ginen i tinailaye yan tiha mirese na kasatigu siha.

Si Moses tumachu kumu sumen ma'lag na modun justisiau yan tunas na ma'gas ni umesgaihon i Israelitas guatu gi otru lugat. I chechu' Moses matatiye ni otru siha man-menhalom yan fitme dignun niha na man-ma'gas kumu achon 'sino guafen satbasion.

Gi estorian i tanu, guaha otru siha Moses man-huyoñg ni parehu mañan yan sensian niha kumu satbadot i man-mamattrata kumu esklabu. Naan siha ha inklusu si Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Martin Luther King, yan otru siha.

Pot Yuus-gue', sen siña i Saina ha abandona i sumen makat na finaposña deste ke ma-sentensia sin umisau as Ponsiu Pilato estake mapunu gi kilu'us. Esta ha faisen si Yuus Tata dispues de maklabague gi kilu'us hafa na pinegague' gi taiguihe na estau.

Lao ti sumeha ya ha faisine dispensu i kumastigague gi as Yuus Tata. Hafa signifikasioña ayu na disisioña? Chechu obidiente gi tinagu tataña. Ya klaru na todu kinalamteña pot satbasion i otru. Matai gi kiluus pot i otru piot i man-namase' yan man-matrata kumu esklabu.

I gumomgum korasonhu i gaige na tatatte si nanaña as Santa Maria ni sen taya' nina' siñana kumu palaoan para u hakude lahiña. Tañges ke tañges ya halie' mismu i Judeus ni tumogcha' kalaguag i lahiña. Hasso pot un' ratu kau siña un' suñgon hafa finaposña si Santa Maria? Hasso lokue' kau un' lañgag mumattit hau pot otru taimanu finapos i Saina?

I modun Moses esta pagu hu pupulan haye na prohimu para u tachu ya u kone' tautauta huyoñg ginen tanu eskablu gi todu ta padedese pagu. Guaha sineda' miyu?

Mauleg na biahe ta atan haf' taimanu 'nai siña ta togtug fitme i sensian hinimidde pot para ta pogsai ya tana' anchu mas pinasensiata gi todu ta petsisige pot para ta adelanta kinalamten todus. Dañkulo premiumu yangin un' sakrifisia hau magahet pot satbasion prohimumu. Si Yuus Maase`!

■■■

Hagasyu katoliku lau kase esta ennau i kuarentai siñko años 'nai humalomyu kabales kilisyanu. Guaha makat finaposhu ni bumira attensionhu guatu gi tai achaigua na fuetsan yan ayudon i Saina.

Buente hana' falofanyu guihe na chalan pot para bai' repara na guaha mas man-dispopone ke mas mauleg na nina' siñan man-famosu na mediku ni umatttende lahihu.

Ayu na finaposhu pumegayu guatu gi pisun hinimidde, pinasensia, yine'ase', kinemprende yan fitme na dignu. Buente pot masyu pagu amko' na guaha mas pinasensiaghu. Lau unu hu tuñgu deste pinatgonhu: Todo tautau maseha hafa estauña parehu yan hagu mismu.

Hu soda' magahet fuetsan tinayuyot. Diariamente hu tutucha nobenahu St. Jude kumu patron famliaghu. Hungan, megai besis 'nai ha totpeyu chinatsaga 'sino matompu' lau deste ayu na haane 'nai hu pega inañgohoghu gi Saina, tat 'nai chathinassoyu'.

Gi este na tiempu, mauleg in' chage satton na tinayuyot gi Saina ni gumuaiya hit todos. Fan man-gagau bendision miyu. Muñga sensian hinesguan yan ti ensegidas manae' hau nu i finaisenmu. Siempre u fatto ennau na ayudu lau establese finenina satton na relasion yan i Saina.

Hana hahassoyu este i man-gagau ayudu ni un' fiet na katoliku ni mama'tane' pot ti ma-oppe finaisenña ensegidas. Era sige manayuyot para u suette biyon pesos ginen i lottery. Esta ilegña na para u abandona relihioña.

Mana' hanau papa' un' añghet ya finaisen kau esta mamahangue' tekit lottery. Ilegña ahe'. Sinañgane ni añghet na debi finenina u famahan tekit para u siña suette gi lottery. Gigon ha fahan gi sigiente dia, todas!

Letter to the Editor

Let's set the record straight

I started working for CUC in January 1991. I was hired to take care of the radios for CUC. In 1995, I was asked to manage the radio control room as well. Later on I was asked to assist with power distribution. I was able to get a few small projects done. But when it came to any of the major projects I was blocked by the administration. For the record, the project that I was blocked on came back later to cost CUC millions of dollars. For Mr. Malae to come out and badmouth me shows a great lack of professionalism.

This is the second time that Mr. Malae has responded to me with smart remarks. It seems that whenever he is lost for an answer he responds with smart remarks. Mr. Malae told the people at the meeting that they had fixed the foundations in the power plant. When I asked him how they did that, he responded that they had replaced the anchor bolts. Does he not realize that this is the third time the anchor bolts have been replaced? You would think that sooner or later, they would figure out that they have a bigger problem than the bolts. Mitsubishi admitted that they made a mistake in the foundations; that was confirmed by a company that came out from Texas to check the problem. If I can come up with a copy of that report I will personally see to it that Mr. Malae gets a copy of it.

For the record, I never had any authority to do anything in the power plant. But that does not mean that I did not know what was going on. Mr. Malae, I will ask you again: When you are going to talk about matters or people, stick to facts and figures. Your smart remarks do not give you much creditability.

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

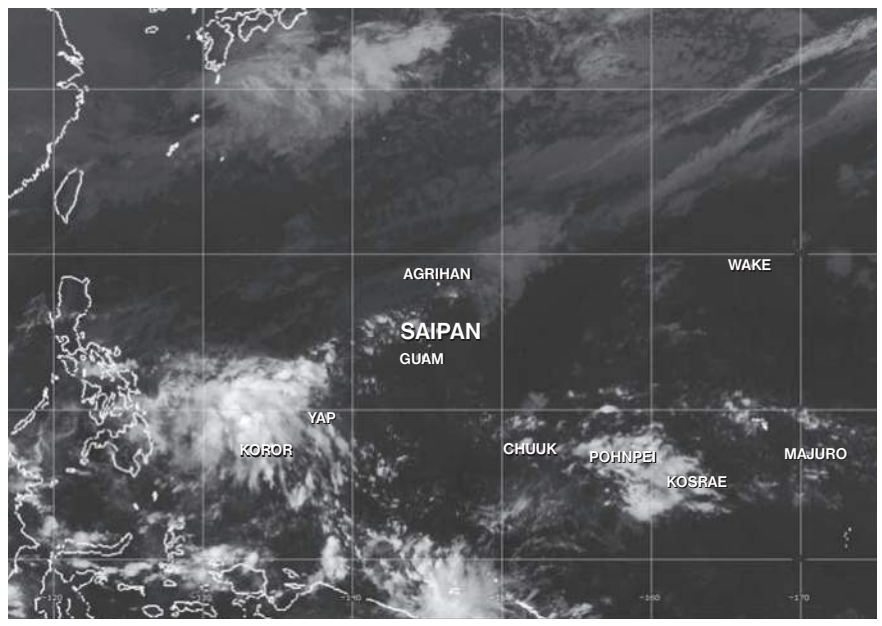
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Kosrae	Rain	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲49	▼31
Hong Kong	Showers	▲67	▼53
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81	▼71
London	Showers	▲50	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼52
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲79	▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼63
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼31
Osaka	Showers	▲54	▼41
Paris	Showers	▲57	▼44
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼34
Rome	Showers	▲64	▼49
Salem	Showers	▲53	▼46
San Francisco	Showers	▲61	▼52
Seoul	Windy	▲41	▼29
Tokyo	Showers	▲61	▼40
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from 25N156E across Minami Tori Shima and the far Northern Marianas to beyond 130E at 13N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends southwestward from 12N140E to 4N132E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Yap between 11N and 7N from 131E to 142E. Scattered showers are located south of Koror between 7N and 3N from 131E to 139E and within 60 miles of a line from 10N134E to 13N140E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers over Kosrae and just south of Pohnpei within 120 miles of a line from 7N157E to 4N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:54 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:26 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
1:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:56 PM	1:22 AM
Tuesday	1:55 PM	2:14 AM
Wednesday	2:55 PM	3:05 AM
Thursday	3:55 PM	3:54 AM
Friday	4:56 PM	4:42 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

ACOE oversees repairs to Palau Compact Road

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta met recently with Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen, commander of the Honolulu District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and members of his staff to discuss the assistance being provided by the ACOE for various projects and initiatives in the Pacific funded by the Office of Insular Affairs. Among the priority projects discussed was the repair of the Palau Compact Road.

The 53-mile long Palau Compact Road was funded by the United States through the Compact of Free Association agreement between the U.S. and the Republic of Palau. It was completed and conveyed to the Palau government on Oct. 1, 2007. However sections of pavement have been damaged as a result of heavy rains. At the request of the Palau President Johnson Toribiong, the Office of Insular Affairs has partnered with the ACOE to assess and then repair the damaged sections. Guttormsen informed Babauta that initial work has begun and a team, which is currently being mobilized, should be sent to Palau by mid-April.

"The prompt repair of the Palau Compact Road is a priority for both the U.S. and the Republic of Palau," said Babauta. "U.S. Ambassador to Palau Helen Reed-Rowe and I have been working closely to ensure that the repair of the Palau Compact Road is done in such a way to avoid any similar future problems. Ambassador Reed-Rowe and I are also very pleased the Army Corps of Engineers recognizes the importance of moving expeditiously on this project and we have great confidence in the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Guttormsen.

"For decades, OIA has successfully partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers to assist the insular areas address their infrastructure needs. I look forward to that partnership continuing as we strive to improve the quality of life for residents of the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States." he added.

The Palau Compact Road is a 53-mile long road that encircles the island of Babeldaob, the largest of Palau's more than 300 islands. Assistant Secretary Babauta and Ambassador Reed-Rowe announced the U.S.'s commitment to fund repair and reconstruction of the damaged portions at the conclusion of the 14th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit hosted by Palau in December 2010. ***(OIA)***

OIA

Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen, P.E., left, and Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta.

NMC students benefit from LinC program

The Northern Marianas College's newly launched Learning in Communities program, or LinC, continues to provide participating students with the opportunity to benefit from a different, enhanced learning environment.

The mission of the new LinC program is "to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment that promotes the highest educational, intellectual, and social development of students" through learning communities.

The concept of a learning community is to have the same group of students take courses that are linked together in order to have more opportunities to develop and enhance a deeper understanding and integration of the material they are learning, and more interactions with one another and their instructors.

According to Barbara Merfalen, NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services, learning communities do exist in other schools because research shows that students who participate in these initiatives have higher academic achievement, enjoy more useful interactions with the faculty, and get more involved with the campus life.

In the spring 2011 semester, the LinC program began offering its first sets of "linked" courses starting with English Writing and Grammar Study III linked with Drama, and Pre-Algebra linked with Introduction to the Hospitality Industry.

In these courses, the instructors collaborate to develop assignments that connect the lessons of the courses. Students taking LinC courses are also given assistance from peer mentors, who help students with course work and classroom activities.

"The peer mentors in NMC's LinC program break the barrier of discomfort between a student and the teacher," said NMC English instructor and LinC instructor Thomas Colton. "Without the peer mentors, the learning communities wouldn't be as successful as they are."

NMC

Northern Marianas College students Stacey Demapan, left, and Jolly Ann Cruz take time to pose for a photo in between classes and mentoring in the NMC Learning in Communities program. Demapan and Cruz are part of a group of students that serve as peer mentors, who assist students with their course work and classroom activities in LinC program courses.

"The peer mentors also help us by checking our class work to see if we did our assignments correctly," said NMC student and LinC participant Chad Merfalen. "It's most helpful when the mentors go over our tests because I can see my mistakes and learn from them."

LinC program participant Frankie Romolor added "I feel very comfortable with them [the mentors] knowing that they were students once as well."

NMC mathematics instructor Lyte Chapap also reports that students in his pre-algebra LinC course are scoring higher on tests.

"The feedback from our students and the improvement we have seen in their academic performance substantiates that the LinC program has been very successful this semester," said LinC program director Geri Willis. "We are also happy to announce that more LinC courses will be offered in the upcoming fall 2011 semester."

The LinC Leadership Team consists of Geri Willis, LinC director, Student Engagement and First-Year Experiences director; Lorraine T. Cabrera, NMC interim president; Zenaida Javier, outreach counselor; Lisa Hacskaylo, institutional researcher/evaluator; Thomas Colton, English instructor; Larry Lee, business instructor; Lyte Chapap, mathematics instructor; John Jenkins, education instructor; Johnny Aldan, nursing instructor; and Amanda Allen, Distance Learning coordinator. The LinC student ambassador and peer mentors are Michelle Avila, Ian Carr, Blaren Castro, Jolly Ann Cruz, Stacey Demapan, and Marvin Rabauliman. ***(NMC)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB11-GOV- 003

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the AGAG WATER SYSTEM WELL FIELD ISOLATION – PART A in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Install approximately 2,600 linear feet of underground waterlines (4 inch through 12 inch) with appurtenant valves, fittings, and pressure reducing valves.
- Installation of six (6) deep well pumps in existing well.
- Installation of one (1) new booster pump and appurtenant equipment.
- Connect to existing waterlines.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving.
- Pressure testing and disinfection of new waterlines.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 21, 2011** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.,** on **March 4, 2011** , at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **March 3, 2011**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB11-GOV-003".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 23, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 23, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 23, 2011**, and must be received no later than **April 1, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **April 4, 2011**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 24, 2011**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Business

United, Continental offer options to those affected by Japan quake

» Customers traveling to impacted cities may reschedule without penalty

CHICAGO—United Continental Holdings, Inc. announced Friday travel options for United and Continental customers whose flight plans may have been affected by the earthquake in Japan.

Conditions at local airports are expected to lead to the delay or cancellation of certain flights to and from Japan, including at the carriers' hub at Narita International Airport. Other cities throughout Japan may also be affected.

United and Continental are closely monitoring conditions in Japan and across the Pacific. The airlines have customer service activities and operations planning underway, and will provide updates at united.com and continental.com. In addition, the company is looking after the needs of its employees in the region.

Customers scheduled to travel to the region are encouraged to check their flight status on their respective company's websites. Additional information about potential flight delays, cancellations and gate changes is available at United's EasyUpdate service or Continental's TripAlert service, which provide customers notifications via phone, text or e-mail.

Change flights for no fee

Customers scheduled on flights to, from or through the impacted areas through March 15, 2011, may reschedule their itinerary with a one-time date or time change, and the change fees will be waived. If a flight has been canceled, a refund in the original form of payment may be requested. Complete details and eligible travel dates are available at united.com and continental.com.

The fastest and most convenient way to change travel plans is via united.com or continental.com.

Customers should continue to manage their reservations on the respective company's website from which their ticket was purchased. Customers may also book a new reservation, change an existing reservation or check flight status by calling United Reservations at 800-UNITED-1 or Continental Reservations at 800-525-0280 or their travel agent. ***(United Continental)***

Quake brings Tokyo to standstill

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's huge earthquake brought super-modern Tokyo to a standstill as it paralyzed trains that normally run like clockwork, crippled mobile phones, stranded hordes of commuters and trapped scores of people in elevators.

The magnitude-8.9 quake that struck off the coast Friday afternoon and triggered a deadly tsunami in the northeast also violently shook buildings in the capital, where halted trains choked an evening commuter flow of more than 10 million people.

"This is the kind of earthquake that hits once every 100 years," said restaurant worker Akira Tanaka, 54.

He gave up waiting for trains to resume and decided—for his first time ever—to set off on foot for his home 12 miles (20 kilometers) north of the capital. "I've been walking an hour and 10 minutes, still have about three hours to go," he said.

Tokyo prides itself on being an orderly, technologically savvy, even futuristic city. Residents usually can rely on a huge, criss-crossing network of train and subway lines. But authorities were forced to scan the entire web for quake damage and cancel nearly all trains for the rest of the day.

Tomoko Suzuki and her elderly mother were unable to get to their 29th-floor condominium because of a stalled elevator. They unsuccessfully tried to hail a taxi to a relative's house and couldn't immediately find a hotel room in their neighborhood.

"We are so cold," Suzuki said Friday evening on a crowded corner. "We really don't know what to do."

AP

People sleep on the floor of the Narita International Airport, near Tokyo, after flights were disrupted following Friday's magnitude 8.9 earthquake on Saturday, March 12, 2011.

Although there were no power outages in central Tokyo, some elevators may have been damaged in the quake while some others were intentionally shut down as a precaution. Elsewhere, widespread electricity outages left millions of homes and buildings without power.

In all, 163 people were reported trapped in elevators throughout the country, the Transportation Ministry said, with 75 of them still stuck Saturday morning. It wasn't clear how many of those were in Tokyo.

Tens of thousands of people milled at the capital's train stations, roamed its streets or hunkered down at 24-hour cafes, hotels and government offices offered as emergency accommodations.

Mobile phone lines were crammed, preventing nearly all calls and text messages. Calls to northeastern Japan, where a 23-foot (7-meter) tsunami washed ashore after the quake, generally failed to go through, with a recording saying the area's lines were busy.

Unable to rely on their mobile phones, people formed lines at Tokyo's normally vacant public phone booths dotting the city.

Japan's top telecommunications company, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., set up an emergency phone line and a special Internet site for people to leave messages for family and friends.

Up to 90 percent of calls were being restricted to prevent telecom equipment from being overloaded, NTT spokeswoman Mai Kariya said. The company was checking on damage to towers and cables.

Osamu Akiya, 46, was working in the office of a Tokyo trading company when the quake sent bookshelves and computers crashing to the floor and opened cracks in the walls.

"I've been through many earthquakes, but I've never felt anything like this," he said.

A handful of subway lines resumed service after a six-hour outage, and officials said they would run all night, past their usual hours.

Nation

Japanese-Americans seek news of quake back home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nancy Niijima switched on the TV in her room at the Keiro retirement home to see images from her native country of submerged neighborhoods, cars being carried in giant ocean tides, collapsed buildings and cracked roads.

"It's like science fiction, not like what really happens in Japan," said Niijima, who is concerned about her sister in the Okinawa island chain, whom she has been unable to reach. The good news is that she has no family near the hardest-hit areas.

In the Los Angeles area and other U.S. regions with large Japanese-American and Japanese expatriate populations, those with ties to the Asian country expressed shock at the damage wrought by the 8.9-magnitude quake and fear for the safety of their loved ones there.

They also grew frustrated with their inability to reach family and loved ones back in Japan, normally not an issue in such a technologically advanced nation where the Internet and cell phones provide numerous ways to communicate with people in the U.S.

"I tried calling my sister in Japan, but all the phone lines were jammed," said Misa Washio, a clerk at a counter selling pens in a Kinokuniya Japanese language bookstore in New York City, who learned of the quake from a friend early Friday and quickly switched on the radio. "I tried about 10 times."

The quake, the largest that Japan has experienced in recorded history, struck when it was 1 a.m. in New York and 10 p.m. in California. Doug Erber, president of the Japan America Society of Southern California, said his office has been fielding a constant stream of queries from people who have not been able to reach friends and family in Japan.

"The phone has not stopped ringing, and text messages and e-mails," he said. "It's been a busy day just trying to keep up. I think I got about 45 minutes of sleep last night."

Erber's organization had added a special section to its website with links to resources that could help users track down loved ones in Japan. These included services by Japan's biggest mobile phone providers that allow users to input friends' phone numbers to access messages posted about them.

The site also links to Google's Person Finder service for the Japan earthquake, where users can ask for and provide information about individuals in Japan they've been unable to reach.

Google spokesman James Yood said many of roughly 17,000 entries on the site by midafternoon Friday were from the United States, although he did not know how many.

Erber said his group is also soliciting donations for the Red Cross' response to the disaster, while in New York, the Beholders Group humanitarian group was gearing up to help earthquake-hit communities.

Beholders member Taty Sena said she had been trying to reach people and organizations in Japan to offer assistance, but that that the apparently overloaded communication circuits wouldn't let her messages through.

"Nothing worked—not the phones, or Skype," she said. "And I didn't get any replies on e-mail."

In San Francisco, a bleary-eyed Ritsuko Suzuki, 46, kept checking her e-mail in between helping customers Saturday at a flower shop in the city's Japantown district, hoping to get any word about her friend Yuko Takahashi who lives in earthquake-ravaged Sendai.

Takahashi, 42, was recently married and had a baby about two months ago, Suzuki said.

"I'm really worried about her," said Suzuki, adding that Takahashi's parents were driving from Tokyo envisioning they can reconnect with their daughter. "Maybe she's safe. I don't know?"

While Suzuki got reassuring e-mails from family and other loved ones who live in Tochigi, Japan—about an hourlong bullet train ride from from Sendai—are safe, she still spent a sleepless Friday either in front of the TV or at her computer.

"I can't say that I'm OK because other people are still out there missing," said Suzuki, who has been leaning on her friends for support. "We're worried. We're waiting."

ACROSS THE NATION

14 die in NYC bus crash; police interview driver

HAWTHORNE, N.Y. (AP)—A tour bus returning from a casino at daybreak Saturday scraped along a guard rail, tipped on its side and slammed into a pole that sheared it nearly end to end, leaving a jumble of bodies and twisted metal along Interstate 95. Fourteen passengers were killed. The bus had just reached the outskirts of New York City on a journey from the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut when the high-speed crash occurred. The driver told police he lost control trying to avoid a swerving tractor-trailer, as assertion that police said was under investigation. As many as 20 passengers were treated at area hospitals. Eight were in serious condition, according to police. Several were in surgery later in the day.

83 rescued from Ky. eatery that floated downstream

COVINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Kathy Kinane and her husband walked into the upscale Waterfront restaurant wearing snorkeling gear, a joking reference to the recent rain and rising water levels outside the eatery housed on a barge. They almost needed it. The Kinanes and 81 others found themselves floating downstream on the Ohio River during the dinner rush Friday night when the restaurant broke from its moorings. All had to be rescued one by one with a makeshift gangplank of ladders and ropes after the boat came to rest against a bridge about 100 feet downriver. "We were joking about the river," Kathy Kinane told The Associated Press on Saturday morning. "Well, the joke's on us now."

Officer dies after shooting in suburb east of NYC

MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. (AP)—Police say an officer and a suspect have died following a shooting in a suburb east of New York City. Nassau County Police Officer Maureen Roach says the officer died at Nassau University Medical Center on Saturday night. Police Detective Lt. Kevin Smith tells Newsday the officer was shot while responding to a report of a suspicious person with a weapon in Massapequa, nearly 40 miles east of Manhattan. Smith says the suspect who died is being identified only as a 27-year-old man. Smith didn't immediately return a telephone call to The Associated Press seeking comment Saturday.

Asia

For battered Japan, a new threat: nuclear meltdown

IWAKI, Japan (AP)—Cooling systems failed at another nuclear reactor on Japan's devastated coast Sunday, hours after an explosion at a nearby unit made leaking radiation, or even outright meltdown, the central threat to the country following a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami.

The Japanese government said radiation emanating from the plant appeared to have decreased after Saturday's blast, which produced a cloud of white smoke that obscured the complex. But the danger was grave enough that officials pumped seawater into the reactor to avoid disaster and moved 170,000 people from the area.

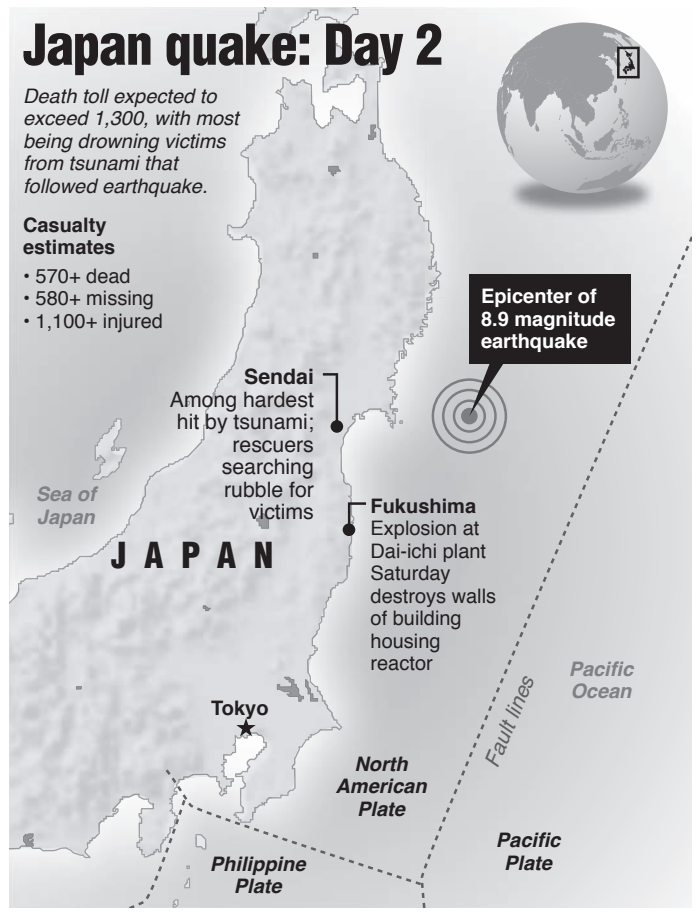
Japan's nuclear safety agency then reported an emergency at another reactor unit, the third in the complex to have its cooling systems malfunction. To try to release pressure from the overheating reactor, authorities released steam that likely contained small amounts of radiation, the government said.

Japan dealt with the nuclear threat as it struggled to determine the scope of the earthquake, the most powerful in its recorded history, and the tsunami that ravaged its northeast Friday with breathtaking speed and power. The official count of the dead was 763, but the government said the figure could far exceed 1,000.

Teams searched for the missing along hundreds of miles (kilometers) of the Japanese coast, and thousands of hungry survivors huddled in darkened emergency centers that were cut off from rescuers and aid. At least a million households had gone without water since the quake struck. Large areas of the countryside were surrounded by water and unreachable. Some 2.5 million households were without electricity.

AP

Displaced vehicles are seen at Sendai Port in Sendai, northeastern Japan, Saturday, March 12, 2011, following Friday's 8.9-magnitude quake and the tsunami it spawned hit the country's northeastern coast.



Powerful aftershocks continued to rock the country, including one Sunday with a magnitude of 6.2 that originated in the sea, about 111 miles (179 kilometers) east of Tokyo. It swayed buildings in the capital, but there were no reports of injuries or damage.

The explosion at the nuclear plant, Fukushima Dai-ichi, 170 miles (274 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo, appeared to be a consequence of steps taken to prevent a meltdown after the quake and tsunami knocked out power to the plant, crippling the system used to cool fuel rods there.

The blast destroyed the building housing the reactor, but not the reactor itself, which is enveloped by stainless steel 6 inches (15 centimeters) thick.

Inside that superheated steel vessel, water being poured over the fuel rods to cool them formed hydrogen. When officials released some of the hydrogen gas to relieve pressure inside the reactor, the hydrogen apparently reacted with oxygen, either in the air or the cooling water, and caused the explosion.

"They are working furiously to find a solution to cool the core," said Mark Hibbs, a senior associate at the Nuclear Policy Program for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Nuclear agency officials said Japan was injecting seawater into the core—an indication, Hibbs said, of "how serious the problem is and how the Japanese had to resort to unusual and improvised solutions to cool the reactor core."

Officials declined to say what the temperature was inside the troubled reactor, Unit 1. At 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit (1,200 degrees Celsius), the zirconium casings of the fuel rods can react with the cooling water and create hydrogen. At 4,000 Fahrenheit (2,200 Celsius), the uranium fuel pellets inside the rods start to melt, the beginning of a meltdown.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said radiation around the plant had fallen, not risen, after the blast but did not offer an explanation. Virtually any increase in dispersed radiation can raise the risk of cancer, and authorities were planning to distribute iodine, which helps protect against thyroid cancer. Authorities ordered 210,000 people out of the area within 12 miles (20 kilometers) of the reactor.

Among those waiting to leave was Reiko Takagi, a middle-aged woman standing outside a taxi company in Iwaki, about 19 miles (30 kilometers) from the nuclear plant.

"Everyone wants to get out of the town. But the roads are terrible," Takagi said. "It is too dangerous to go anywhere. But we are afraid that winds may change and bring radiation toward us."

It was the first time Japan had confronted the threat of a significant spread of radiation since the greatest nightmare in its history, a catastrophe exponentially worse: the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States, which resulted in more than 200,000 deaths from the explosions, fallout and radiation sickness.

Officials have said that radiation levels at Fukushima were elevated before the blast: At one point, the plant was releasing each hour the amount of radiation a person normally absorbs from the environment each year.

The Japanese utility that runs the plant said four workers suffered fractures and bruises and were being treated at a hospital. Nine residents of a town near the plant who later evacuated the area tested positive for radiation exposure, though officials said they showed no health problems.

Two days after the magnitude 8.9 quake, there were grim signs that the death toll could soar. One report said no one could find four whole trains. Others said 9,500 people in one coastal town were unaccounted for and that at least 200 bodies had washed ashore elsewhere.

The government said 642 people were missing and 1,426 injured.

Atsushi Ito, an official in Miyagi prefecture, among the worst-hit states, could not confirm the figures, noting that with so little access to the area, thousands of people in scores of towns could not yet be reached.

ASIAN BRIEFS

At least 19 killed in north China road collision

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese officials say 19 people have been killed in a collision between a passenger bus and a truck in the country's northeast. The State Administration of Work Safety says the bus plunged into a river following Saturday's midmorning accident in Wanlang township on the outskirts of Baishan city in Jilin province. The official Xinhua News Agency put the death toll at 21. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

2 Chinese dissidents freed after 10 years in jail

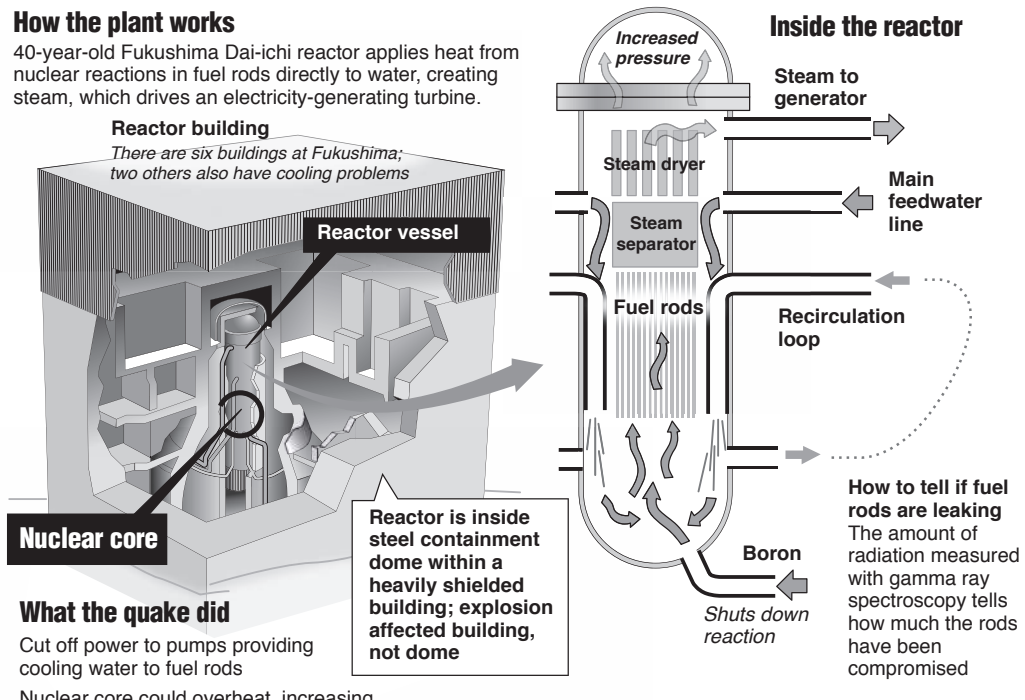
BEIJING (AP)—Two Chinese dissidents who were sentenced to 10 years in prison for getting together to talk about political reform and posting their views online have been released after completing their jail terms, their fathers said Sunday. Xu Wei, a former reporter, and Jin Haike, a writer, were detained in 2001 and convicted of subversion in 2003 after taking part in an informal study group in Beijing that met privately to talk about democratic reform. Their fathers said that both were released Saturday.

Thai 'Red Shirts' rally in show of strength

BANGKOK (AP)—Tens of thousands of anti-government "Red Shirt" protesters rallied Saturday in Thailand's capital in a show of strength as the country prepares for an electoral battle. The demonstration came just a day after Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said he will dissolve Parliament by early May, with elections expected by July—at least six months early. The Red Shirt rally marked the anniversary of the start of their two-month protest last year that deteriorated into a violent confrontation that left 91 people dead and more than 1,400 injured. They had been demanding early elections, claiming Abhisit came to power through undemocratic means.

Cooling the nuclear reactor

With backup cooling pumps inoperative, Japanese officials are using seawater to cool fuel rods after an earthquake, tsunami and explosion rocked a seaside nuclear power plant near epicenter of Friday's quake.


How the plant works
40-year-old Fukushima Dai-ichi reactor applies heat from nuclear reactions in fuel rods directly to water, creating steam, which drives an electricity-generating turbine.
Reactor building
There are six buildings at Fukushima; two others also have cooling problems
Reactor vessel
Nuclear core
Reactor is inside steel containment dome within a heavily shielded building; explosion affected building, not dome
What the quake did
Cut off power to pumps providing cooling water to fuel rods
Nuclear core could overheat, increasing risk of meltdown, release of radiation
Inside the reactor
Increased pressure
Steam to generator
Steam dryer
Main feedwater line
Steam separator
Fuel rods
Recirculation loop
Boron
Shuts down reaction
How to tell if fuel rods are leaking
The amount of radiation measured with gamma ray spectroscopy tells how much the rods have been compromised

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Source: Reuters, Wall Street Journal Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treible

World

Gadhafi pushes ahead as Arab League calls for help

RAS LANOUF, Libya (AP)—The world moved a step closer to a decision on imposing a no-fly zone over Libya but Moammar Gadhafi was swiftly advancing Saturday on the poorly equipped and loosely organized rebels who have seized much of the country.

Gadhafi's forces pushed the front line miles deeper into rebel territory and violence erupted at the front door of the opposition stronghold in eastern Libya, where an Al-Jazeera cameraman slain in an ambush became the first journalist killed in the nearly monthlong conflict.

In Cairo, the Arab League asked the U.N. Security Council to impose a no-fly zone to protect the rebels, increasing pressure on the U.S. and other Western powers to take action that most have expressed deep reservations about.

In surprisingly swift action and aggressive language, the 22-member Arab bloc said after an emergency meeting that the Libyan government had "lost its sovereignty." It asked the United Nations to "shoulder its responsibility ... to impose a no-fly zone over the movement of Libyan military planes and to create safe zones in the places vulnerable to airstrikes."

AP

A pro-Gadhafi fighter holds a poster of Libyan Leader Moammar Gadhafi as black plume of smoke rises from the burning oil refinery as they are pictured during a government-organized visit for foreign media in Ras Lanouf, 380 miles (615 kilometers) southeast of the capital Tripoli, in Libya Saturday, March 12, 2011.

Western diplomats have said Arab and African approval was necessary before the Security Council voted on imposing a no-fly zone, which would be imposed by NATO nations to protect civilians from air attack by Gadhafi's forces.

The U.S. and many allies have expressed deep reservations about the effectiveness of a no-fly zone, and the possibility it could drag them into another messy conflict in the Muslim world.

Gen. Abdel-Fattah Younis, the country's interior minister before defecting, told The Associated Press that Gadhafi's forces had driven even further into rebel territory, past the refinery at Ras Lanouf and were now just 25 miles (40 kilometers) outside Brega, the site of another major oil terminal.

Fewer rebel supporters were seen by an Associated Press reporter further east, suggesting morale had taken a hit as the momentum shifted in favor of the regime.

Outside the rebel stronghold of Benghazi deep in opposition territory, Al-Jazeera cameraman Ali Hassan al-Jaber was killed in what the pan-Arab satellite station described as an ambush.

Correspondent Baybah Wald Amhadi said the crew's car came under fire from the rear as it returned from an assignment south of Benghazi. Al-Jaber was shot three times in the back and a fourth bullet hit another correspondent near the ear and wounded him, Amhadi said.

"Even areas under rebel control are not totally safe," he said. "There are followers, eyes or fifth columns, for Col. Gadhafi."

The Libyan government took reporters from the capital, Tripoli, 375 miles east by plane and bus to show off its control of the former front-line town of Bin Jawwad, the scene of brutal battles six days earlier between insurgents and Gadhafi loyalists using artillery, rockets and helicopter gunships.

A police station was completely destroyed, its windows shattered, walls blackened and burned and broken furniture inside. A nearby school had holes in the roof and a wall. Homes nearby were empty and cars were overturned or left as charred hulks in the road.

Rubble filled the streets and a sulfurous smell hung in the air.

The tour continued 40 miles to the east in Ras Lanouf, an oil port of boxy, sand-colored buildings with satellite dishes on top.

Egypt to lift restrictions on political parties

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's military rulers plan to scrap a law that has severely restricted the formation of political parties, a government official said Saturday, the latest liberalization of the strict regime of ousted President Hosni Mubarak..

The official said that the restrictions that gave Mubarak a virtual veto over establishment of political parties would be lifted after a referendum next week on constitutional changes to allow for fair parliamentary and presidential elections.

Alongside the pledge for reform, that was a clear statement that the rulers are rejecting demands by reformers to postpone or call off the referendum.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters, said new political parties will only need to notify authorities of their formation. Under Mubarak, they had to receive approval from a committee dominated by his ruling party, which ensured his control over rivals. The referendum scheduled March 19 asks Egyptians to vote on changes that would loosen restrictions on who could run for president, opening the field to independents and candidates from small opposition parties. Also, it would impose a two-term limit on future presidents.

The previous system allowed Mubarak to rule for three decades and gave his ruling National Democratic Party a veto over who could run against him.

Critics say the changes don't go deep enough to change what they see as a faulty constitution, nor do they limit the powers of the next president.

The protesters also complain the plan to hand over power to a civilian administration six months after the military took charge means that parliamentary elections would come too soon and deny new political parties a chance to campaign. They fear old that political players, such as Mubarak's ruling party or the Muslim Brotherhood, would take control of a new parliament.

The Brotherhood, Egypt's best organized political group, welcomed the proposed amendments and said it will vote in favor. The group's spokesman, Essam el-Erian, said in a statement on the group's website Saturday that the changes require a new parliament to write a new constitution that would meet further calls for change.

Yemen police fire on protesters, 6 killed

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni security forces killed six people Saturday and wounded hundreds in the second day of a harsh crackdown on anti-government protests, witnesses said. One of the dead was a 15-year-old student.

The assault with gunfire and tear gas was the toughest yet by the Yemeni government in a month of protests aimed at unseating President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has been in power for 32 years.

The violence began with a pre-dawn raid on a central square in the capital, Sanaa, where thousands of pro-democracy protesters have been camped out.

Doctors and eyewitnesses said security troops surrounded the square with police cars and armored personnel carriers shortly after midnight and began calling on protesters through loudspeakers to go home. At 5 a.m., security forces stormed in, firing live and ammunition tear gas.

One protester died from a bullet to the head, which may have come from a sniper on the rooftop of a nearby building, witnesses said. Abdelwahed al-Juneid, a volunteer doctor working with the protesters, said around 250 people were wounded.

"We were performing dawn prayers when we were surprised by a sudden hail of bullets and tear gas," said Walid Hassan, a 25-year-old activist. "The protesters began throwing rocks at security ... it was total mayhem, a real battlefield."

A few hours later, another protester was shot dead in a nearby street. Eyewitnesses said he was also killed by a sniper, but that could not be independently confirmed. Security officials did not have any immediate comment.

In the city of Dar Saad in the southern province of Aden, police used live fire and tear gas to disperse a crowd of several thousand, killing three demonstrators, a local activist and a hospital official said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the tense situation.

The hospital official said all the dead were all shot in the head. Eleven other protesters were wounded, he said.

The activist said the protesters later marched to the local police station, demanding that the shooter be handed over. Then they burned down the police station, the witness said.

In the port city of Mukalla in the southeastern province of Hadramout, a 15-year-old student was shot dead when security troops opened fire on protesters. Twelve people were wounded in similar violence in Yemen's southern province of Taiz. Saleh, an ally in the Obama administration's fight against al-Qaida, appeared to be one of the Arab leaders most threatened by the regional unrest inspired by pro-democracy revolts in Egypt and Tunisia. Demonstrators are demanding jobs and greater political freedoms. Saleh has tried to calm protesters by proposing that the government create a new constitution guaranteeing the independence of parliament and the judiciary—but protesters have said it's too little, too late.

WORLD BRIEFS

US contractor convicted in Cuba; 15-year sentence

HAVANA (AP)—A Cuban court on Saturday found U.S. contractor Alan Gross guilty of crimes against the state and sentenced him to 15 years in prison, a verdict that brought a swift and strongly worded condemnation from Washington. The court said prosecutors had proved that Gross, 61, was working on a "subversive" program paid for by the United States that aimed to bring down Cuba's revolutionary system. Prosecutors had sought a 20-year jail term. Gloria Berbena, a spokeswoman for the U.S. diplomatic mission on the island, termed the decision "appalling" and called on Cuba to release Gross immediately. "We reject and deplore this ruling," she told The Associated Press. "It is appalling that the Cuban government seeks to criminalize what most of the world deems normal, in this case access to information and technology."

Cartel greets new Juarez police chief with threat

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—The new police chief in the violent Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez received a threat on just his second day on the job, an official said Saturday. Two previous Ciudad Juarez police chiefs have quit their jobs since 2008 after criminals killed police officers and threatened to kill more unless they resigned. The city across the border from El Paso, Texas, is suffering a bloody turf between drug cartels that has made it one of the most dangerous places in the world. City police spokesman Adrian Sanchez said a sign threatening Public Security Director Julian Leyzaola Perez was left beside a man who was found on Friday tortured but alive and wrapped in a blanket. The message said "this is your first gift" and was signed "the Sinaloa cartel."

Gates: Arab nations must enact democratic reforms

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Saturday he believes leaders in Persian Gulf ally Bahrain are serious about addressing grievances that have spawned a growing protest movement, but swift action is needed to deny rival Iran the chance to exploit the current instability. Gates told reporters on his flight home from the Mideast that he urged rulers in the kingdom, which is home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, to view their crisis as a chance to show other Arab governments how political change can prove successful. "I told them that in this instance, time is not our friend" in light of Iran's interest in capitalizing on the unrest, the Pentagon chief said in an interview after meetings in Manama, the capital.

Focus

AP

A car leans against a wire from an electric pole in Miyako, northeastern Japan, Saturday, March 12, 2011, one day after an 8.9-magnitude quake and the tsunami it spawned hit the country's northeastern coast.

Scenes of devastation at heart of Japan disaster

By JAY ALABASTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SENDAI, Japan (AP)—She scanned the landscape of debris and destruction, looking at the patch of earth where Japan's massive tsunami erased her son's newly built house so thoroughly that she can't even be certain where it once stood.

Satako Yusawa teared up but pulled herself together quickly. Because for the 69-year-old widow, there was this to be thankful for: Her son and his family were out of town when Friday's offshore, 8.9-magnitude quake sparked huge surges of water that washed fleets of cars, boats and entire houses across coastal Sendai like detritus perched on lava.

But her son had borrowed a lot of money to build that house, and had moved in only last month.

"This," she said, "is life."

No one knows yet how many people died in the disaster. Police found 200 to 300 bodies on beaches near Sendai but were still assessing the devastation in the northeastern port of 1 million people, where regional Gov. Yoshihiro Murai was to visit on Sunday. Japan's overall death toll stood at 686, though the government said the eventual tally could far exceed 1,000 as search efforts step up in the coming days.

For those who survived, the bleakest of landscapes unfolded before them.

In Sendai, mud-spattered survivors wandered streets strewn with fallen trees and houses ripped from foundations, alongside smaller relics of destroyed lives—a desk chair, a beer cooler. Power and phone reception remained cut, as rescuers plied through murky waters around flooded structures. Smoke from at least one large fire billowed in the distance.

This is what it looks like when the earth shakes, the water comes and the fires burn: Life is interrupted, reduced for hours and days to basic survival. Conveniences, taken for granted in one of the world's most developed societies, become mere hopes for tomorrow.

Yusawa said she was having tea at a friend's house when the main quake struck, shaking the ground massively for more than two horrifying minutes.

"We were desperately trying to hold the furniture up," she said, "but the shaking was so fierce that we just panicked."

Yoshio Miura, 65, was in his small trucking company office Friday afternoon when the rumbling started, sending him under a table and dislodging heavy metal cabinets.

"These cabinets fell down right on top of me, and luckily they were stopped by this table," he said, gesturing across an office in shambles, its contents strewn across the floor by the quake and then coated in a thick layer of grime from the tsunami.

"The shaking was mostly side to side, it was very strong. ... Look at what it did to this building!" He points to a large shed that was lifted off its foundation.

Then came the water—massive waves that swept some 6 miles (10 kilometers) inland.

"The flood came in from behind the store and swept around both sides," remembered convenience store owner Wakio Fushima. "Cars were flowing right by."

Wakio's store, about 3 miles (5 kilometers) from the shore, already was reopened for business, but there was no power and the floors were filthy with tsunami residue.

Many Sendai residents spent the first night outdoors, unable to return to homes damaged or destroyed in the disaster. Some fellow residents and business owners chipped in with help. At an electronics store, workers gave away batteries, flashlights and cell phone chargers. Several dozen people waited patiently outside.

From a distance, the store appeared to have survived intact. But a closer look revealed several smashed windows and slightly buckled walls.

Inside was chaos. The ceiling of the second floor had collapsed, and large TVs, air conditioners and other products lay smashed and strewn about the aisles.

"Things were shaking so much we couldn't stand up," said Hiroyuki Kamada, who was working in the store when the initial quake hit.

The tsunami hit the city's dock area and then barreled down a long approach road, carrying giant metal shipping containers about a mile (2 kilometers) inland and smashing buildings along the way.

Hundreds of cars and trucks were strewn throughout the area—on top of buildings, wedged into stairwells, standing on their noses or leaning against each other.

Most ships in port managed to escape to sea before the tsunami hit, but a large Korean ship was swept onto the dock.

Cell phone saleswoman Naomi Ishizawa, 24, was working when the quake hit in the mid afternoon. She said it took until nightfall to reach her house just outside Sendai and check on her parents, who were both OK. Their home was still standing, but the walls of a bedroom and bathroom had collapsed and debris was strewn throughout.

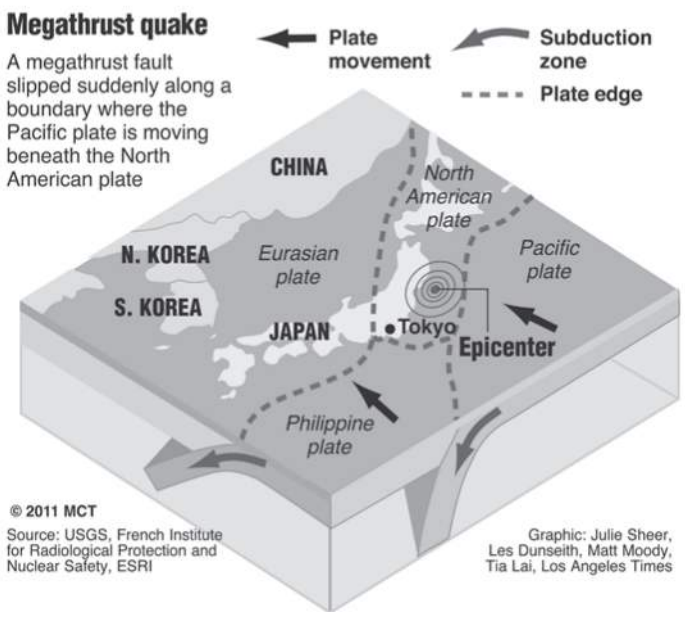
And yet, she was lucky. The tsunami's inland march stopped just short of her residence; other houses in her neighborhood were totally destroyed.

Like many people throughout Japan's northeast, she had not heard from others in her family and was worried.

"My uncle and his family live in an area near the shore where there were a lot of deaths," Ishizawa said. "We can't reach them."

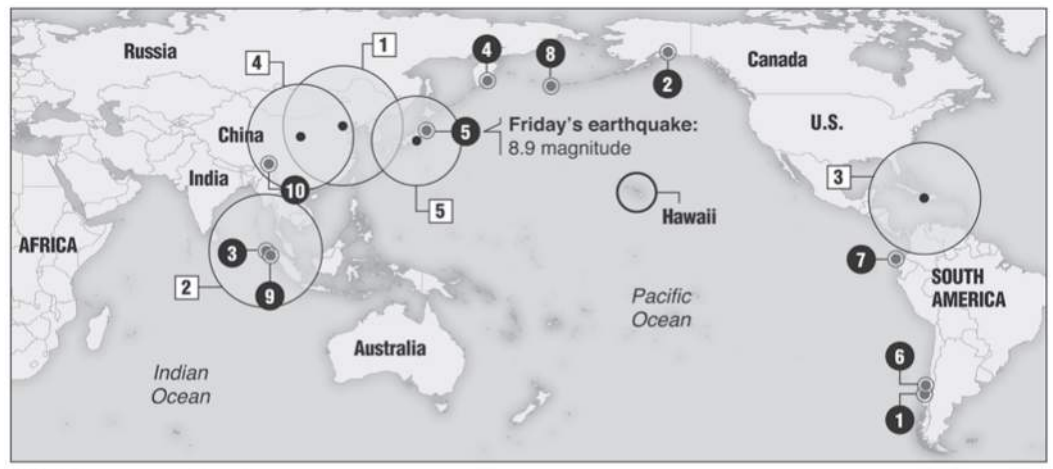
Shaking and flooding

The 8.9-magnitude earthquake off the northeast coast of Japan occurred in a highly seismic subduction zone where several tectonic plates converge.



Japan quake ranks fifth since 1900

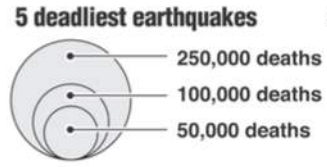
Friday's earthquake off the coast of Japan was the fifth largest earthquake since 1900. The death toll, estimated to ultimately top 1,300, likely will not set any records, though.



10 largest earthquakes Since 1900

Rk.	Year	Location	Magnitude
1	1960	Coastal Chile	9.5
2	1964	Prince William Sound, Alaska	9.2
3	2004	Sumatra, Indonesia	9.1
4	1952	Kamchatka, Russia	9
5	2011	Honshu, Japan	8.9
6	2010	Maule, Chile	8.8
7	1906	Coastal Ecuador	8.8
8	1965	Rat Islands, Alaska	8.7
9	2005	Sumatra, Indonesia	8.6
10	1950	Assam/Tibet	8.6

5 deadliest earthquakes Since 1900



Rk.	Year	Location	Deaths
1	1976	Tangshan, China	255,000
2	2004	Sumatra, Indonesia	227,898
3	2010	Leogane, Haiti	222,570
4	1920	Haiyuan, China	200,000
5	1923	Kanto, Japan	142,800

Source: U.S. Geological Survey
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Health & Fitness

MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH

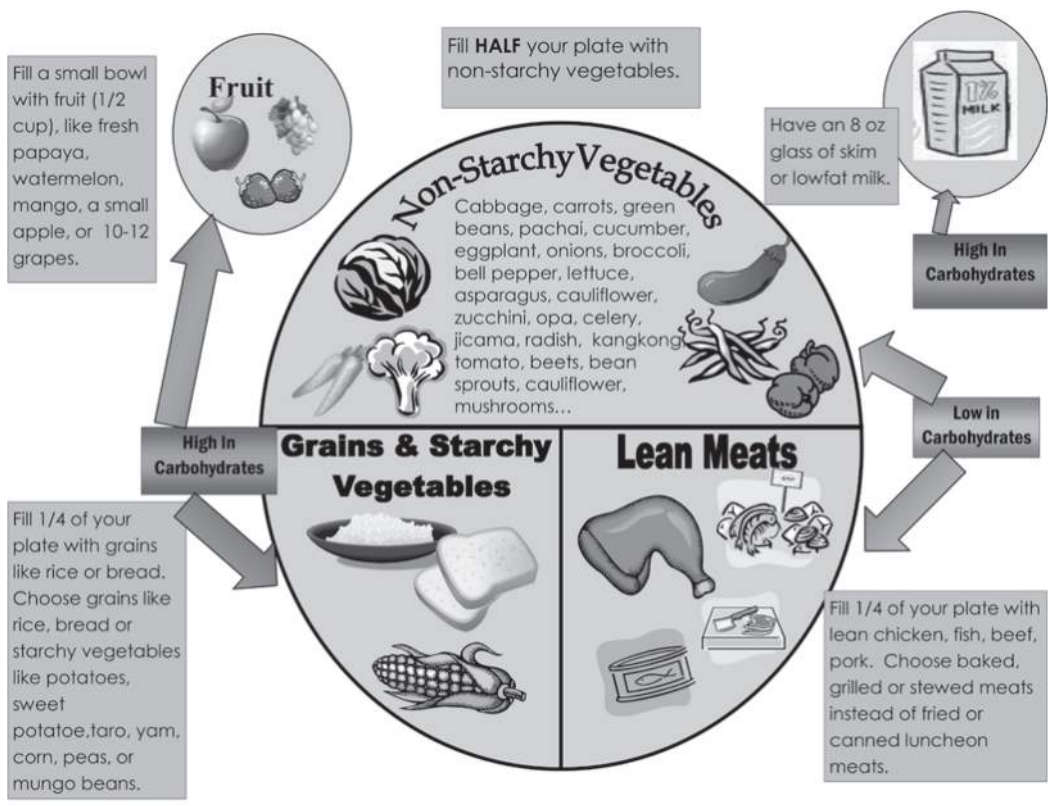
A great way to fill your plate: Fight diabetes with food

By DIANNE ESPLIN, RD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Do you know someone with diabetes? Or maybe you have diabetes yourself? Experts have shown that simple diet changes can work wonders for people with diabetes. Research has also shown that eating a balanced diet, moderate in carbohydrates also helps prevent diabetes. So, what exactly is a balanced diet, moderate in carbohydrates?

Nutrition experts modified a simple Swedish eating system for diabetes treatment, prevention, and weight loss. It is called the Plate Method. Studies have shown that it works. It teaches how to measure good serving sizes without any the complicated measuring.

You can try the Plate Method for yourself. For your next meal, just take a 9 inch plate and divide it in half. Fill half the plate with colorful non-starchy vegetables, like cabbage, kang kong, carrots, pechai, eggplant, green salad and/or string beans. Now, divide the rest of the plate in half again, so you have fourths. In one fourth, put lean meats, like grilled fish, chicken, or beef. If you are a vegetarian, you can use tofu or nuts in this section. In the last ¼ of the plate, put your starchy foods, like rice, bread, noodles, potatoes, taro or sweet potato. That's not all! Add a small bowl of fruit, about ½ cup. This could be papaya cubes, a slice of watermelon, a mango, whatever type you like. And finally, have one 8 oz cup of low-fat or skim milk.


Fill a small bowl with fruit (1/2 cup), like fresh papaya, watermelon, mango, a small apple, or 10-12 grapes.
Fruit
Fill HALF your plate with non-starchy vegetables.
Non-Starchy Vegetables
Cabbage, carrots, green beans, pachai, cucumber, eggplant, onions, broccoli, bell pepper, lettuce, asparagus, cauliflower, zucchini, opa, celery, jicama, radish, kangkong, tomato, beets, bean sprouts, cauliflower, mushrooms...
Have an 8 oz glass of skim or lowfat milk.
1% MILK
High In Carbohydrates
Low in Carbohydrates
High In Carbohydrates
Grains & Starchy Vegetables
Lean Meats
Fill 1/4 of your plate with grains like rice or bread. Choose grains like rice, bread or starchy vegetables like potatoes, sweet potatoe,taro, yam, corn, peas, or mungo beans.
Fill 1/4 of your plate with lean chicken, fish, beef, pork. Choose baked, grilled or stewed meats instead of fried or canned luncheon meats.

Based the American Diabetes Association "Create Your Plate" and the Idaho Plate Method
Graphic by Dianne Esplin, RD

This eating system keeps the carbohydrates (sugars and starches) nicely balanced and moderate, and it encourages a variety of foods. There is also flexibility. If you are not a milk drinker, you can substitute one additional fruit serving or a starch serving instead. For more information about the plate method, see the American Diabetes Association Website at diabetes.org and search for "Create Your Plate". http://www.diabetes.org/food-and-fitness/food/planning-meals/create-your-plate/

Some people need more specialized help with diabetes. Medicare and most insurance cover personalized diet assistance called Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) with a registered dietitian or classes with a Certified Diabetes Educator. Ask your doctor if these options are available to you.

Dianne Esplin has been a registered dietitian for 20 years. She lives on Saipan and currently works with people on dialysis at a private clinic.

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Ranks of cancer survivors growing fast, CDC says

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—The number of cancer survivors in the United States is increasing by hundreds of thousands a year, and now includes roughly one in 20 adults, health officials said Thursday.

More people are surviving cancer, in part, because of earlier detection and better treatment, they said.

In 2007, there were about 11.7 million Americans with a history of cancer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Forty years ago, the number of cancers survivors was about 3 million. That increased to 10 million in 2001 and to 11.4 million in 2006.

Healthy eating, less smoking and other preventive steps may also be playing a role in the increase, health officials said.

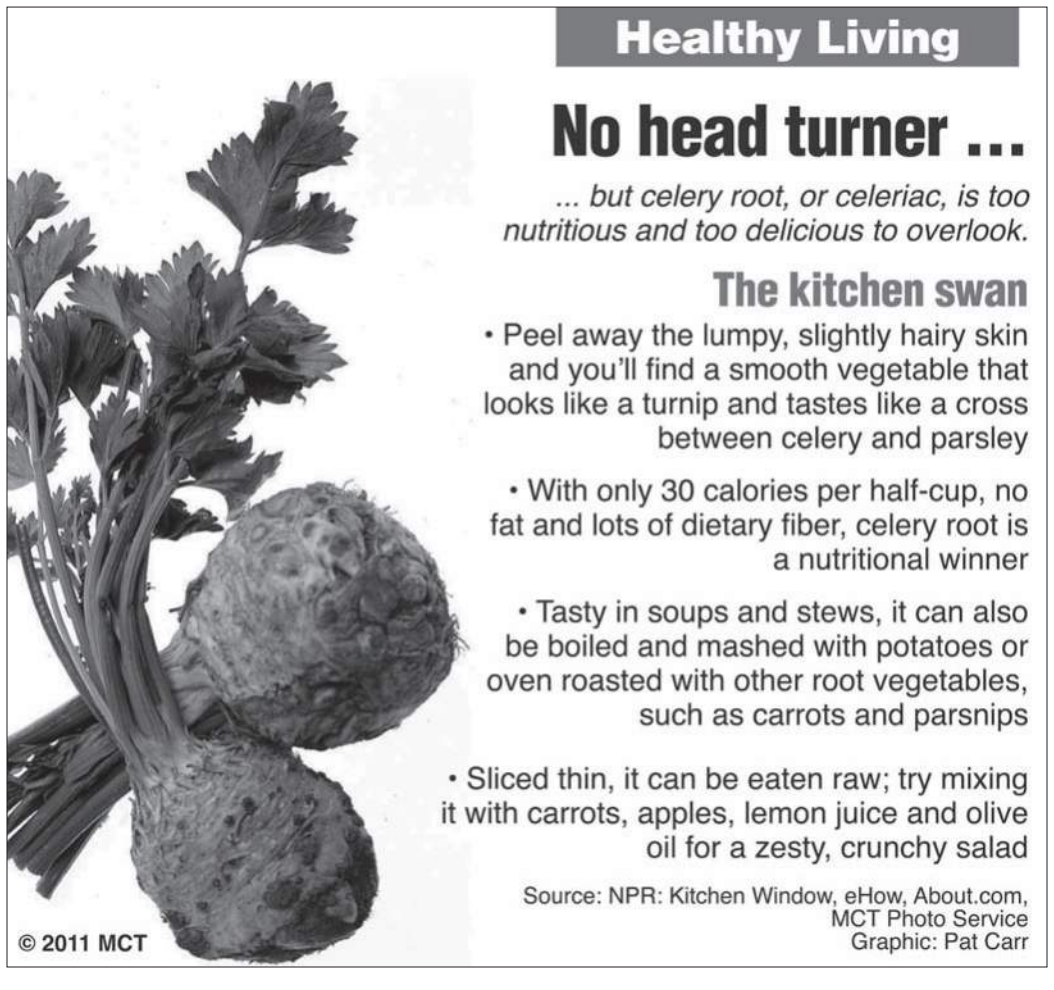
"There are some cancers that we can't prevent and they are terrible tragedies," said CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden. "But there are many that are preventable, or if caught early can result in much longer life."

Demographics are a factor in the survivor increase, too. Cancer is most common in people 65 and older, and the nation's elderly population is growing. The CDC said 7 million—60 percent—of the cancer survivors were 65 or older.

Women diagnosed with breast cancer made up the largest share of cancer survivors, at 22 percent, followed by men with prostate cancer, at 19 percent.

The estimates from the CDC and the National Cancer Institute were based on information from nine U.S. cancer patient registries.

The survivor count includes anyone who had a cancer diagnosis, including people who had been successfully treated as well as those still getting treated or who may be dying from the disease. About 65 percent had survived for at least five years, and 40 percent for 10 years or more.


Healthy Living
No head turner ...
... but celery root, or celeriac, is too nutritious and too delicious to overlook.
The kitchen swan
• Peel away the lumpy, slightly hairy skin and you'll find a smooth vegetable that looks like a turnip and tastes like a cross between celery and parsley
• With only 30 calories per half-cup, no fat and lots of dietary fiber, celery root is a nutritional winner
• Tasty in soups and stews, it can also be boiled and mashed with potatoes or oven roasted with other root vegetables, such as carrots and parsnips
• Sliced thin, it can be eaten raw; try mixing it with carrots, apples, lemon juice and olive oil for a zesty, crunchy salad
Source: NPR: Kitchen Window, eHow, About.com, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr
© 2011 MCT

FDA approves first new drug for lupus in 56 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved the first new drug to treat lupus in over 50 years, a milestone that medical experts say could prompt development of other drugs that are even more effective in treating the debilitating immune system disorder.

Known as Benlysta, the injectable drug is designed to relieve flare-ups and pain caused by lupus, a little-understood and potentially fatal ailment in which the body attacks its own tissue and organs.

Biotech drugmaker Human Genome Sciences Inc. spent 15 years developing Benlysta and will co-market it with GlaxoSmithKline PLC.

The companies estimate there are at least 200,000 lupus patients in the U.S. who could benefit from the drug.

But experts stress that Benlysta is not a miracle drug: It only worked in 35 percent of North American patients tested and was not effective for patients with the deadliest form of the disease. Additionally, it did not show positive results in African Americans, who are disproportionately affected by lupus.

FDA said in its news release it would require the drug developers to conduct another study exclusively in African Americans.

Dr. Betty Diamond, who has studied lupus for 30 years, said Benlysta should provide encouragement to researchers and drug developers.

"It will send out the message that it's possible to conduct a successful clinical trial in lupus and that's tremendously important to keep the pharmaceutical industry interested in this disease," said Diamond, a researcher at the Feinstein Institute in New York.

Janice Fitzgibbon of McLean, Virginia has been taking Benlysta for two years as part of the drug's clinical trial program.

"It's given me my life back," she said, after being so crushed by pain that she couldn't take her dog for a walk or drive her children to school.

"It's a bittersweet thing for me because I have friends with lupus for whom this drug won't work," said Fitzgibbon, who is 54. "There's no one-size-fits-all for lupus and I'm just extremely fortunate that my lupus is mild and is helped by Benlysta."

FDA approved the drug for systemic lupus erythematosus, the most common form of the disease. Ten-year survival for patients diagnosed with the illness is more than 85 percent, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Lupus patients have long struggled to draw attention to their disease, which affects women nine times more than men. African Americans are three times more likely to have the disease.

"I don't think there's a conspiracy here, but it just hasn't gotten a lot of funding and it hasn't gotten a lot of attention from the media," said Dr. Abby Abelson, chair of the Department of Rheumatologic and Immunologic Disease at the Cleveland Clinic.

Life & Style

Friend the pope? John Paul II gets Facebook page

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican will unveil the latest installment in its social media transformation next week—a Facebook page dedicated to the upcoming beatification of Pope John Paul II, officials said.

The site, which will link to video highlights of John Paul's 27-year papacy, is designed to promote the May 1 beatification. But it may well continue beyond given the global and enduring interest in the late pontiff, Vatican officials told The Associated Press.

The Vatican's first attempt at an event-themed Facebook page—to promote Pope Benedict XVI's September trip to the United Kingdom—is still active six months later and updated near-daily with 10,000-15,000 regular fans checking in, said Monsignor Paul Tighe, the No. 2 in the Vatican's social communications office.

"What we found is that Facebook doesn't just share information, it creates community," Tighe said in an interview Friday. "People begin talking to each other and sharing ideas."

That interactivity—and the potential it brings to the church's evangelization mission—is behind the Vatican's new social media push, the culmination of which will be launched at Easter with a new Vatican information web portal whose contents are specifically designed to be tweeted, posted and blogged.

The portal will serve as a one-stop-shop aggregator of news from the Vatican's various information sources: Vatican Radio, Vatican Television, the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, the Holy See's press office and Fides, the Vatican's missionary news agency, Tighe said.

The Vatican's current website—http://www.vatican.va—will remain since that's more of a stable site with basic information about the Holy See, key Vatican documents and offices, and papal activities.

The new site, rolled out first in English and Italian and then other languages, will be more news-based, bringing together onto one page the current disorganized web presence of Vatican media.

Designed thematically, with each format's take on, say, the Japan earthquake or the Libyan uprising posted together, it will be multimedia focused but specifically designed for social media use, so people can tweet, post and blog its contents onto their own friends and fans, Tighe said.

"For us it will be a beginning of drawing on the riches of what we have, of our existing communications apparatus, and integrating that to ensure that its formally working with new media," he said.

New stars bring fresh blood to 'Red Riding Hood'

LOS ANGELES, California (AP)—Director Catherine Hardwicke made Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner household names when she cast the trio of young actors in "Twilight" in 2008. Now she hopes to work her same star-making magic with "Red Riding Hood."

Amanda Seyfried plays Valerie, a young woman betrothed to one man but in love with another. Newcomers Shiloh Fernandez and Max Irons play her two would-be lovers in the fantasy tale set in a medieval village that's haunted by a werewolf.

Though Seyfried has appeared in more than a dozen films, Irons and Fernandez have just a handful of acting credits each. The 25-year-old actress says Hardwicke has "an eye for casting and she has an eye for chemistry."

"When she sees two people connect, she becomes your biggest fan she wants to take that and make that into something beautiful," Seyfried says. "I think she saw that with Rob (Pattinson) and Kristen (Stewart) and she has been very vocal about that. When she first saw Shiloh (Fernandez) and me do our chemistry read, she saw something and I saw something."

Hardwicke, 55, also launched careers for Nikki Reed, who co-wrote and starred in "Thirteen" and went on to appear in the "Twilight" series, and Emile Hirsch, a star of "Lords of Dogtown" whose credits now include starring roles in "Into the Wild" and "Milk."

"It's very fun for me," Hardwicke says. "If people have this talent or this goal, things that they are working toward that if you can give them a chance or give them a voice ... I love the idea of helping them get there."

Hardwicke also works with young writers.

"A 22-year-old friend of Nikki's and mine wrote the ("Red Riding Hood") novel, which got on the New York Times best seller list ... so whatever the person's talent is, I love the idea of helping them get there."

"She's got a knack for it," says Gary Oldman, who plays a veteran werewolf hunter in "Red Riding Hood."

"She kind of understands this coming-of-age and teenage-angle angst," he says. "And she is very good at casting."

Fernandez, one of the main love interests in the film, was almost cast in Robert Pattinson's role in "Twilight."

"Thank God he wasn't," Seyfried says, "so he could be in our movie."

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We the wife, children and families of

Capt. Salvador Santos Koshiro

Lovingly known as "Sal"

Would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to our relatives and friends who surrounded us with their love, prayers, kindness and support.
Your thoughtful gestures and kind words have consoled our hearts beyond our expectation in such difficult times.
Your presence at the nightly rosaries and most especially at the mass of Christian Burial was very comforting.

We will always remember you in our hearts and prayers

"May God Bless You All"

Thank you very much and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From Aldan-Koshiro families

In Celebration of His New Life

†Isidro Rabauliman Ogarto

Lovingly known as "Kazu"

Born: October 14, 1959 Died: March 7, 2011

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: **Leovinia Teregeyo Taitano Ogarto**
Children: **Elaine Carmilita, Erika Sioni, Kito Cid**, and **Ninita**
Brother/Sister and in-laws: Trinita & (**†Edwin**) & children, **Manuel, Mariana** & Daniel Eugenio & children, and **Elizabeth** & Jeremiah Iguel & children

In-Laws: **Trinidad** & Nicksy Berdon & children, **Antonio** & Karlina & children, **Dorothy** & children, William (**†Patricia**) & children, **John Jr.** & Bibang & children, **Tricia Ann** & Edson & child and **Ignacio** & Bing & children

In his new life he joins his:

Father: ***Isidro Limes Ogarto***
Mother: ***Carmen "Lúghúmaal" Fitial Rabauliman Ogarto***
Brother: ***Francisco, Manuel and Edwin***
Parents In Law: ***Juan Lisua Taitano***
Carmen Teregeyo Taitano
Sister-in-Law: ***Patricia T. Rabauliman***
God Father: ***Leon Ogarto***

Daily mass of intentions are being offered at 6:00am at San Jose and Kristo Rai Church and at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad followed by rosary at 7:00pm.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2011. His remains will be escorted from the CHC Chapel at 7:30am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00pm followed immediately by Interment Services will be at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please Join Us In Prayers,
Leovinia Ogarto
Children and Family

Mel Gibson pleads no contest to battery charge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson used some lightning legal moves Friday to abruptly end a domestic violence case involving a fight last year with his then-girlfriend.

Within hours, Gibson was charged with misdemeanor spousal battery and pleaded no contest in a deal with prosecutors that kept him out of jail.

In a separate case, prosecutors announced they found insufficient evidence to pursue Gibson's extortion allegations against Oksana Grigorieva, the victim in the battery case and the mother of Gibson's infant daughter.

As part of the plea deal, Gibson will spend three years on probation, undergo a year of domestic violence counseling, and perform 16 hours of community service.

If he complies and doesn't get into further trouble, he won't have to make another court appearance in the case.

Gibson, 55, dressed in a blue suit and blue striped shirt, said little during the brief hearing beyond acknowledging his rights and the terms of the plea deal.

Grigorieva did not attend the proceeding.

The developments marked a swift ending to a legal saga that began last summer when Grigorieva, a Russian musician, reported Gibson had hit her during a fight at his Malibu home in January 2010.

By the time she went to police, the pair were locked in a bitter custody battle and the actor soon accused her of attempting to extort him during negotiations for custody arrangements involving their daughter.

Months of investigation by deputies followed. Sexist and racist rants by Gibson were leaked to celebrity website RadarOnline.com, and Grigorieva did interviews with Larry King and People magazine detailing threats she attributed to Gibson.

The custody battle continues in a Los Angeles court, but the proceeding is closed to the public and the records are sealed.

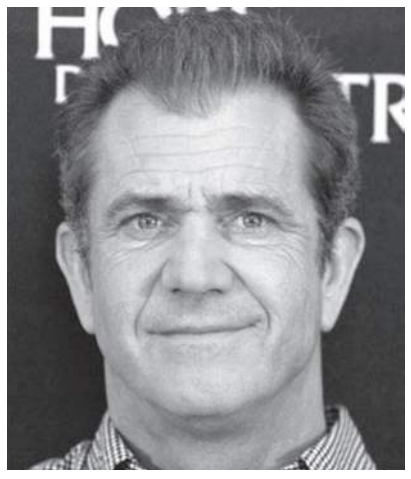
In the battery case, Gibson entered a plea in which he did not admit guilt and cannot be used against him if Grigorieva files a lawsuit.

His lawyer Blair Berk said the Academy Award winner made the move with the best interests of his children in mind.

"It is with only that in mind that he asked me to approach the district attorney with a proposal that would bring all of this to an immediate end," Berk said in a statement.

Prosecutors said they agreed to the deal because it offered adequate protection for Grigorieva and her daughter with Gibson.

A protective order issued by Superior



Gibson

Court Judge Stephanie Sautner forbids Gibson from threatening or becoming violent with Grigorieva or her children.

Grigorieva, 41, also has a teenage son with actor Timothy Dalton.

The order, however, will not keep Gibson from seeing his infant daughter.

"The protective order has restrictions, as long as he complies with the protective order, he can see his daughter," said John Lynch, a head deputy district attorney who helped handle the case.

Lynch thought the plea agreement was warranted, given Gibson's lack of a serious criminal history.

"I think that this disposition would have occurred if we had taken it to trial," Lynch said.

The battery charge was another blow to Gibson's reputation, which took a major hit after his 2006 arrest for drunken driving. A deputy's report leaked to the celebrity website TMZ revealed the action star had used anti-Semitic and sexist slurs.

His conviction was later expunged after he completed terms of his sentence.

The charge came a week before Gibson's latest film, "The Beaver," is due to premiere at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. It is only the second major film that Gibson has starred in since 2002.

He portrays a deeply troubled man able to communicate only through a beaver puppet in the film directed by Jodie Foster.

Although Gibson's prominence as an actor has diminished, he has remained a Hollywood fixture and drawn audiences as a director.

His relationship with Grigorieva helped return Gibson to the limelight, with the pair appearing on red carpets and award shows. Gibson confirmed her pregnancy on "The Tonight Show."

Gibson was accused of striking her on Jan. 6, 2010, although she did not report it until months later.

The Sheriff's Department opened its investigation in July, and later began its probe into the extortion allegation made by Gibson.

By then, the pair had broken up and reached a confidential custody agreement regarding their daughter Lucia. Although the exact details are not public, Gibson's attorney said last year the actor was paying for a house and car for Grigorieva along with child care.

The former couple has appeared opposite each other several times in a family law court that has heard issues related to child care, financial issues and evidence in the criminal investigations of both parents.

Grigorieva's attorneys lauded the decision to not charge her with extortion, saying the conclusion was reached "after very careful consideration of all the facts and with complete fairness to all involved."

Grigorieva never invoked her Fifth Amendment right during interviews and turned over numerous confidential documents, according to a statement issued to The Associated Press by her lawyers Daniel Horowitz, Ronald Litz and Martin Garbus.

"Ms. Grigorieva will now concentrate on co-parenting Lucia, resuming her charitable work for the children of Chernobyl and moving forward with her life," the statement said.

The lawyers declined further comment.

'Wimpy Kid' author keeps day job on kids' website

BY DENISE LAVOIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP)—Jeff Kinney has made more than enough money writing about one Wimpy Kid to live comfortably for the rest of his life.

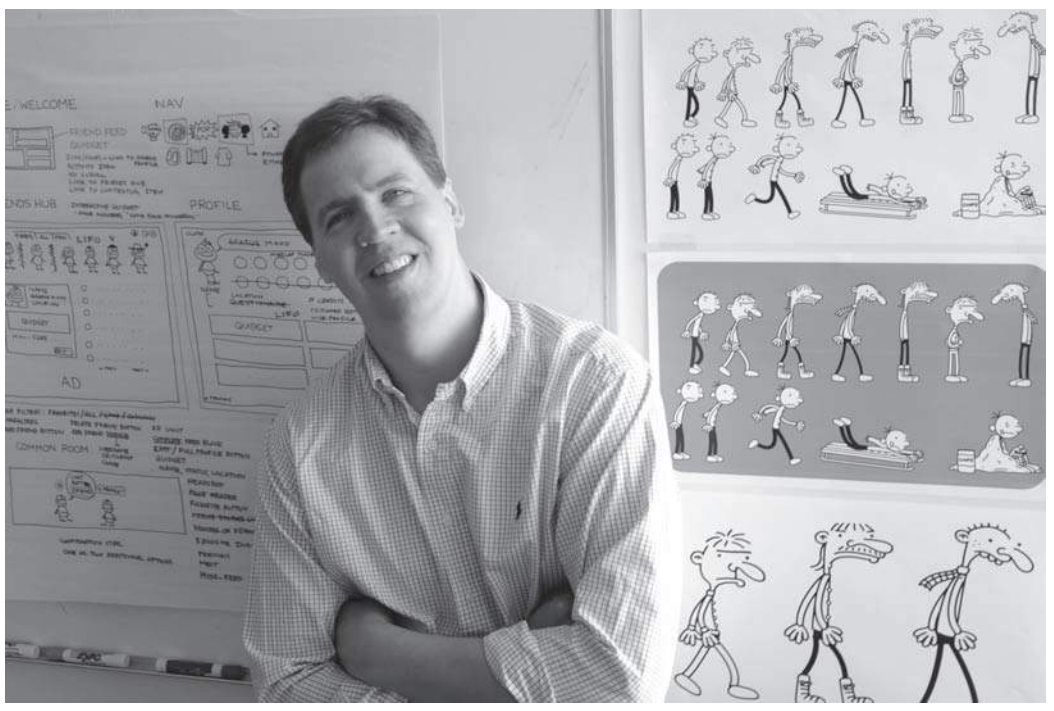
But thinking about the millions of kids he reaches each month through the popular children's website Poptropica.com makes him keep his day job.

"It's the other great love of my life," said Kinney, author of the best-selling "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" book and movie series. "It's very difficult to walk away from an audience of 10 million kids a month. To know that you can make a positive impact on what they're learning and what they're experiencing online is sort of addictive."

The books are told from the perspective of Greg Heffley, a self-centered middle school boy whose angst over growing up—and dealing with bullies, girls and sibling rivalry among other things—is conveyed in funny stories and simple sketches. On Poptropica, kids create their own avatars and can play and learn while exploring virtual islands through storytelling.

Next week, Kinney will bring his "Wimpy Kid" books to Poptropica with a new Wimpy Wonderland island. A movie, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," was released last year, and a second movie, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Rodrick Rules," is set to be released March 25.

Kinney, the father of two boys, sees himself as part author, part cartoonist, part Web designer and all Dad.



AP

In this March 1, 2011 photograph, Jeff Kinney, author of the children's book series, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," poses for a portrait at his office in Boston.

"There's a lot of junk in the world for kids, and we try not to add to that. We try to create something that's quality," said Kinney, who lives in Plainville, a small town about 30 miles (48 kilometers) southwest of Boston, on the Rhode Island border.

In 2001, while he was working on the book, he took a job at the Boston-based Family Education Network, a business unit of Pearson PLC, publisher of the Financial Times and Penguin books. He worked as a design director for various websites, including funbrain.com, a popular kids' site for online educational games. Parts of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" were first published on funbrain in 2004.

In 2007, the Family Education Network launched Poptropica, a site Kinney came up with while mowing his lawn. In a little over three years, Poptropica has become one of the largest virtual websites for preteens, averaging 8 million to 10 million unique visitors monthly.

Kinney's boss, Jess Brallier, said Kinney's work on the "Wimpy Kid" books and Poptropica may look easy but Kinney does things over and over until they're just right. Kinney is creative director and executive producer of Poptropica, and he works on every aspect of the site, from creating the islands to making sure the chat with historic characters is preprogrammed so kids have no real contact with anyone else using the site.

"He'll animate and re-animate. He will work on a word for four hours," Brallier said. "I think he's a perfectionist because he doesn't want to let people down, and it's a responsibility he feels, especially with kids."

For Kinney, the success he has had with "Wimpy Kid" and Poptropica still seems surprising to him.

He grew up in suburban Maryland reading the comics pages and longing to be a cartoonist. In college, he published a comic strip about a freshman in several school newspapers, but then spent three years struggling to get the strip syndicated, receiving more than 50 rejection letters. The idea for the Wimpy Kid books came to him in 1998 and took nine years to get published.

"I was writing a journal at the time, keeping a journal of my own life, with text interspersed with my drawings," he said. "I realized that was a really good format."

Kinney's goal was to publish one book. He never imagined that his idea for "Wimpy Kid" would turn into a series of books that would stay on The New York Times' best-seller list nonstop for almost four years.

Kinney says Greg, the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" protagonist, is loosely based on his own childhood experiences.

"My worst points are reflected in Greg, so I'd say he's a cartoon exaggeration of my prepubescent self," he says.

Kinney said he writes for adults, many of whom can look back and laugh at their middle school years. But the books have been a runaway hit with kids, particularly those ages 8 to 11, and are known among parents and teachers for holding the interest of reluctant readers. There are now 42 million "Wimpy Kid" books in print—translated into 40 languages—including five books in the series, plus a movie diary and a do-it-yourself journal.

Kinney downplays his success, saying only half-jokingly that he sees his books "as a gateway to more legitimate reading."

"It will always stick with me that I couldn't break onto the comics pages," he says. "On the flip side, when I go to an authors' convention, I feel like I'm not quite a real author because I use cartoon drawings to bolster my writing."

In the end, Kinney says he feels more like a cartoonist.

Kinney's friends say he has remained the same modest, self-deprecating guy he was in college, when he was known for drawing caricatures of everyone in his dormitory, playing practical jokes on people and juggling knives.

"I think he steps back from it every day and says, 'I can't believe this is happening,'" said Aaron Nicodemus, a friend who attended Villanova with Kinney before Kinney transferred to the University of Maryland. "He was always surprised, like, 'Really, you want to market it to kids? You really want to split it into three books?' It was always a pleasant surprise to him."

For Kinney, balancing the books, the movies, Poptropica and his family isn't easy. Most days, Kinney, who recently turned 40, works on Poptropica in his home office, then works on his "Wimpy Kid" books nights and on weekends. He works from the Family Education Network offices in Boston once or twice a week. Working from home allows him to spend time with his wife, Julie, and sons, Will, 8, and Grant, 5. He's also a Cub Scout leader.

"Our life, in most ways, is very normal," he says.

His sons' reaction to their dad's books has been as understated as his.

"My 5-year-old makes it clear to me that my books are not his favorites," Kinney says, laughing.

Charlie Sheen brings live show to Detroit, Chicago

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen is taking his show on the road.

A spokesman for the outspoken actor said tickets go on sale Saturday for shows in Detroit and Chicago next month called "Charlie Sheen Live: My Violent Torpedo of Truth."

Sheen

Publicist Larry Solters said Sheen is promoting the show himself and has already begun rehearsals. Solters said he does not know the nature of the show or whether additional performances will be scheduled.

Sheen announced the show Thursday and Friday to his more than 2 million Twitter followers, calling it "the REAL story."

The 45-year-old actor was fired from the hit CBS show "Two and a Half Men" on Monday. He sued the show's producers Thursday for $100 million for breach of contract. Hours later, he reached a custody agreement with his estranged wife over their twin sons.

Sheen has been making headlines with his colorful, rambling interviews, in which he has claimed to be a "Vatican assassin warlock" with "tiger blood" and "Adonis DNA."

Solters is apparently replacing the actor's longtime publicist, Stan Rosenfield, who abruptly resigned two weeks ago when Sheen began giving interviews to various news outlets and radio programs. Solters described himself Friday as "a warlock in training."

Sheen poetry, lean and mean, hot on eBay

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlie Sheen doesn't have a deal yet for a planned memoir, but a book of poems he self-published 20 years ago is a hot item on eBay.

Bidding for an initialed copy of "A Peace of My Mind," long out of print, had reached nearly $600 on the online auction website as of Friday afternoon.

The poems are as dark as any of his recent rants, including "A Thoughtless Soul," which includes the passage: "A night of drink/A night of hate/A night as dark,

As last night's date."

The former star of the CBS sitcom "Two and a Half Men" has been reading from the book on his webcast, "Sheen's Korner."

'Survivor' star Hatch gets 9 months on violation

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Reality TV star Richard Hatch was ordered back to prison Friday to serve a nine-month sentence for failing to pay taxes on the $1 million he won on the first season of the hit CBS show "Survivor."

Hatch, who is currently appearing on NBC's "The Celebrity Apprentice," spent more than three years in prison for tax evasion before being released in 2009, and has been serving a three-year term of supervised release. During that period, he was supposed to refile his 2000 and 2001 taxes and pay what he owed, but he never did.

Hatch

U.S. District Court Judge William Smith on Friday said Hatch, who has strenuously maintained his innocence, had exhibited no remorse and had made no effort to comply with an order that he straighten out and pay his taxes. He imposed a sentence three months longer than what was recommended by prosecutors: six months—the maximum in the federal sentencing guidelines.

He said the term of supervised release, which is supposed to be a time of rehabilitation, did not appear to be doing any good in Hatch's case. He said a substantial sentence was required to send a message to Hatch and others who flout the court's orders.

"You can continue to proclaim your innocence," Smith said. "You don't have the option of engaging in this type of game or negotiation with the court. It needs to be a severe punishment. That's the only thing that will deter you in the future."

He also ordered Hatch serve 26 months supervised release, during which time 25 percent of Hatch's gross income would be garnished and paid to the Internal Revenue Service. Prosecutor Andrew Reich said Friday that Hatch now owes an estimated $2 million to the IRS on the Survivor winnings and other income, including penalties.

Hatch, who lives in Newport, R.I., was ordered to report for his prison term on Monday.

He said outside court that he was disappointed and planned to appeal.

During the hearing, Hatch told Smith that he had fully cooperated with the terms of his release, and that his taxes were extremely complicated and he was working with an accountant to determine from the IRS what he owed. His lawyer said he had only made $26,000 to $27,000 in income since being released from prison, and said he had sought jobs in marketing, on a fishing boat and was currently trying to leverage his charity appearance on "Celebrity Apprentice" into paying jobs in the entertainment industry.

Hatch also told the judge he recently discovered he had a second son and was trying to build a relationship with him. He asked Smith because of that and the job opportunities that could come out of his "Celebrity Apprentice" appearance not to send him back to prison.

NBC said 11 of 12 episodes of "Celebrity Apprentice," which features 16 celebrities competing for charities, have already been taped. It premiered March 6. The finale, which ordinarily features the last two contenders and a winner chosen, is scheduled to air live on May 22.

Judge grants Rose McGowan three-year restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has granted Rose McGowan a three-year restraining order from a Connecticut man who she says threatened her agent and others in attempts to contact her.

The former star of the TV series "Charmed" did not attend Friday's hearing. She wrote in a court filing that she has been "severely unnerved" by the actions of Louis S. Santo III.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Kenji Machida ordered Santo to stay away and not try to contact the actress until March 2014.

McGowan's attorney, Aaron Shelden, says a man he believes was Santo called him recently and threatened him because he was representing the actress.

The 36-year-old Santo told The Associated Press in February that he had written a script for McGowan. He did not appear in court Friday.

AP
In this Feb. 13, 2011 file photo, actress Rose McGowan attends the Preen Fall 2011 show in New York.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Singer Ne-Yo creates show for Cartoon Network

NEW YORK (AP)—Ne-Yo has written many hit songs—and now he's taking writing to a new level. The Grammy winner told The Associated Press in an interview Friday that he closed a deal with Cartoon Network to produce his own show. The cartoon is called "I Heart Tuesdays" and Ne-Yo said production starts soon. He said the show is about "a 16-year-old girl that inherits the curse of her bloodline and she's forced to save the world from the unknown evil every Tuesday for the rest of her life." Ne-Yo said he created the show "for his sister." The platinum-selling singer-songwriter also says he's putting together a line of hats. Ne-Yo stars in the new film "Battle: LA," in theaters Friday. He had his first child in November. His latest CD, "Libra Scale," was also released in November.

Finalists announced for UK short story prize

LONDON (AP)—Established novelists Hilary Mantel and Gerad Woodward have been shortlisted with four other writers for a British short story prize. The nominees for The Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award also include American Anthony Doerr, Chinese-American Yiyun Li, and Britons Will Cohu and Roshi Fernando. The award—judged by writers including AS Byatt and Will Self—is worth 30,000 pounds ($48,245), and is billed as the most valuable prize for short stories in the world. The winner will be announced at an awards dinner on April 8.

Spokeswoman: Pregnant Jewel 'fine' after accident

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)—A spokeswoman for Jewel says the pregnant country singer was involved in an auto accident but appears to be fine after being checked out at a hospital. Nicole Perez-Krueger said in an e-mail Friday that hospital tests indicate that Jewel and the fetus are healthy. The Texas Department of Public Safety says the singer and Erath County Commissioner Jim Pack were involved in the two-vehicle collision Friday at a rural intersection in Stephenville. The agency says Pack was driving a fire department truck with his lights and siren on while on his way to a grass fire. Perez-Kreuger says the fire truck struck Jewel's vehicle. The accident is being investigated. Jewel and her rodeo champion husband, Ty Murray, live in Texas.

Husband's list of good deeds creates bad feelings in wife

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: When my husband is mad at me, he will recite all the good things he has done for me, but "forgets" all but one or two things I have done for him.

I try to be considerate and caring every single day, and when I can't recite the list of the good things I do, I end up feeling low and unworthy.

Shouldn't kindness be given just because you love and care about someone? Am I wrong to feel bad because I can't summon up at the drop of a hat every little thing I do all the time? Why should I even have to point out these things in the first place? Your opinion would be greatly appreciated.

IT'S A SHORT LIST

DEAR SHORT LIST: When a person is being berated and adrenaline is rushing through her system, it's not surprising that she isn't capable of a long oration. The instinct is probably to run for cover.

What you have said is right on target. So, please, take a few minutes (or more) while you are calm and make a list of all the good things you do and have done for your spouse. Then make about 100 copies. And when your husband starts that lecture again—and you know he will—hand him one.

DEAR ABBY: My wife recently established a Facebook account in order to reach out and keep up with her family and friends. I've had an account for a few years, but I am not very active. I asked her to be my "friend," but she refused. She is extremely conscious of her image and claims I might send her something her friends and family could interpret as controversial and damaging to her professional or personal reputation.

What does this say about her feelings toward me? Does she perceive me as a liability? What avenue should I take to find out where I stand with her in the pecking order of importance?

BLOCKED IN HOUSTON

DEAR BLOCKED: What this says about your wife's feelings is that some of your behavior has embarrassed her in the past, or she is posting something online that she doesn't want you to see. Or, she may be hiding something—whether it's something she's doing or something she's saying. You two need to work on your communication skills, online and offline.

DEAR ABBY: I'M one of those daughters-in-law who are "unkind" and "ignore" their mothers-in-law. I'm shocked you didn't ask that mother-in-law who wrote you about her daughter-in-law (Feb. 6) WHY it was happening.

In my case it's because she belittles me, is rude and finds fault with everything I do. An actual complaint she made was that I didn't make enough eye contact with her during a family party. Abby, there were 10 other guests and she was across the room.

When I speak to my mother-in-law, she constantly reinterprets what I say, giving my words her own meaning; then she becomes offended by the meaning SHE assigned, not what I said. I am her son's wife; I am not a doormat. I'm the mother of her grandkids, and it's not my responsibility to fulfill her emotional need to feel important.

A healthy relationship is a two-way street, whether it's between spouses, parents and children or daughters-in-law with their mothers-in-law.

DISGUSTED DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

DEAR DISGUSTED: There are often two sides to every story, and I'm sorry your relationship with your mother-in-law is such a poor one. Thank you for writing and sharing the other side.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

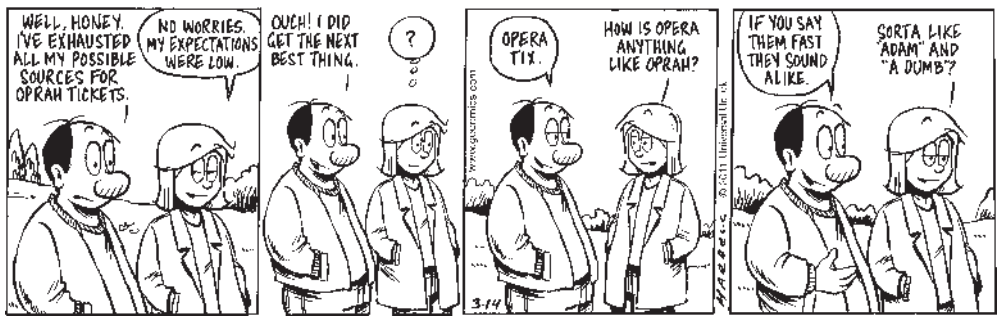
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

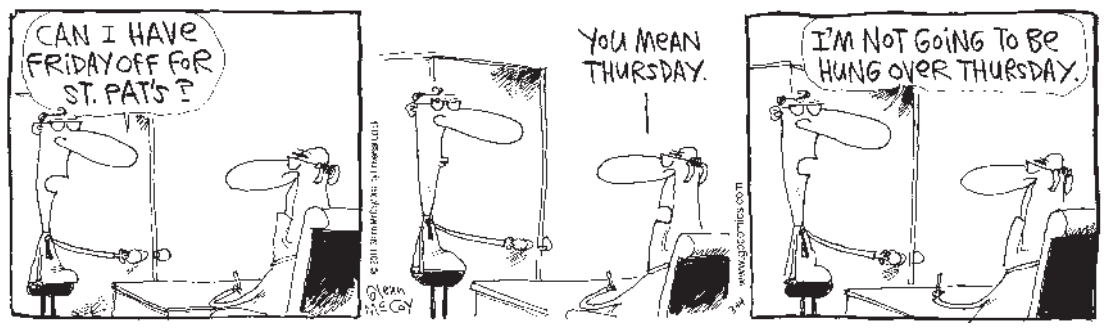
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WELL, HONEY. I'VE EXHAUSTED ALL MY POSSIBLE SOURCES FOR OPRAH TICKETS.
NO WORRIES. MY EXPECTATIONS WERE LOW.
OUCH! I DID GET THE NEXT BEST THING.
?
OPERA TIX.
HOW IS OPERA ANYTHING LIKE OPRAH?
IF YOU SAY 'THEM FAST THEY SOUND ALIKE.
SORTA LIKE "ADAM" AND "A DUMB"?
3-14

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

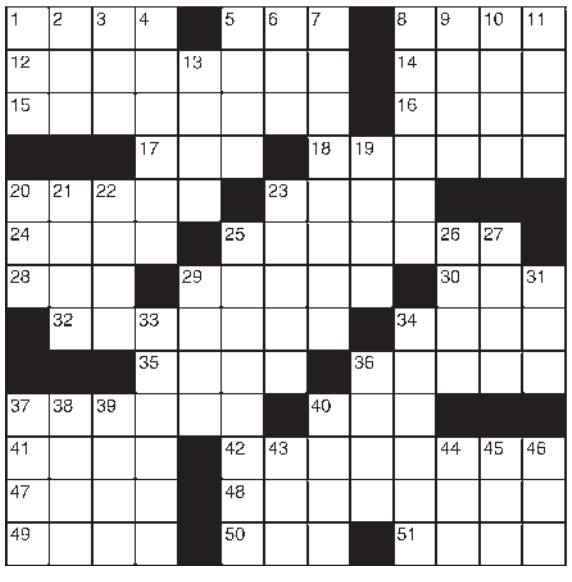
ACROSS
1 Watched
5 Taxpayer's addressee (Abbr.)
8 Injure
12 Mexican street band
14 Piece of work
15 Small prison cell
16 — fide
17 Comedian DeLuise
18 Family name on both "Full House" and "ALF"
20 Censor's sound
23 Mattel subdivision
24 Ointment
25 Lockable money container
28 Syllable often following a dot
29 Donny's sister
30 Martini ingredient
32 Orator's perch
34 Clench
35 Longtime baseball pitcher Jim
36 "... — finest hour"
37 Lowly servant
40 Exist
41 Thing
42 Television set
47 Wound cover
48 Lone
49 "Comin' — the Rye"
50 Booker T.'s backup band
51 Courtroom cry

DOWN
1 Type squares
2 Deviate off course
3 Before
4 Crown
5 Nuclear weapon (Abbr.)
6 Letter after pi
7 Famous route
8 Mingle (with)
9 "Once — a time"
10 Mysterious letter
11 Despot
13 On
19 Liniment target
20 English channel?
21 Cambodia neighbor
22 Ticklish Muppet
23 Fortune-telling deck
25 Occult doctrine
26 Shrek, for example
27 Romans' unlucky number?
29 Film-rating org.
31 "All Things Considered" airer
33 With hands on hips
34 Urban subsection
36 "Star Trek: TNG" role
37 Waterfall effect
38 Engrave
39 Approach
40 Isn't healthy
43 Pooch
44 Biscay or Biscayne
45 Raw mineral
46 Alphabet ending

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	U	M	P	■	H	O	B	S	■	A	S	H
E	S	A	U	■	O	K	R	A	■	C	O	O
V	E	R	B	■	T	A	I	L	■	N	Y	C
I	D	Y	L	■	R	Y	E	■	P	E	A	K
■	■	■	I	D	O	■	F	O	R	■	■	■
B	H	A	C	E	D	■	S	P	I	R	A	L
R	I	N	S	E	■	■	E	V	I	T	A	■
A	P	I	A	R	Y	■	A	N	A	D	E	M
■	■	■	L	E	O	■	E	S	T	■	■	■
C	U	B	F	■	G	I	N	■	F	S	P	Y
O	N	E	■	R	U	D	E	■	E	P	E	E
I	T	S	■	A	R	E	A	■	Y	U	A	N
L	O	T	■	P	T	A	S	■	E	R	R	S

Saturday's answer 3-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Follows, 43; Billy Crystal, 63; Quincy Jones, 78; Michael Caine, 78

Happy Birthday: Strive for balance with the world around you. Once you master that, doors will open and amazing opportunities will appear. It's all about fitting in and using your energy wisely. You can accomplish great things this year if you join the team best suited to your goals, contributing your knowledge and creativity. Your numbers are 8, 10, 14, 23, 25, 37, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Slow down or you'll make a mistake or offend someone unintentionally. Patience will be required if you want to project professionalism, as well as warmth and compassion. An emotional incident can be expected at home. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Emotions will be difficult to hide but will also help you express openly and honestly the way you feel, allowing you to achieve good results. Take care of business as well as your responsibilities first hand. You can show your ability to deal with whatever comes your way. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't feel obligated to help someone from your past, especially if it will get you in trouble with your family and friends. If you must step into dangerous territory, know ahead of time the best way to reverse your steps. Don't mess up a good relationship. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Moody moments can be expected. Before blaming someone else for your inability to focus or the confusion you are feeling, figure out the real cause of your doldrums. A challenge or getting involved in a physical activity will help you sort through any emotional turmoil. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Careful what you share with others. If you give out too much information, it may be used against you. Make last-minute alterations to your plans. Love is highlighted and a promise will lead to a romantic encounter. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a moment to go over your current position as well as your goals. The distance between the two is closer than you think. Mix business with pleasure and you will get ahead. Be prepared to spend a little extra cash. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let work-related matters get you down when you should be focusing on relationships, creative endeavors and personal changes. Don't let anyone make you feel guilty for the choices you make. Put what you want first. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Visit destinations that will motivate you to make overdue changes. Follow your feelings even if it causes friction with those close to you. It's important that you strive to reach your own goals. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You don't have to overspend to fix up your residence or to make loved ones happy. Make changes that don't have a cost involved but will show your long-term intentions. If you keep on the move, you can avoid discord and disputes. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't share your thoughts or you will meet with opposition. It's important to avoid any sort of emotional face-off. You aren't likely to win a debate, especially if it concerns a problem from the past that keeps occurring. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do whatever job you have lined up and take care of any responsibilities that belong to you. Now is not the time to start trouble or to make a change that will alter your earning ability. Charm and diplomacy can alleviate potential loss. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stop changing your mind or you will confuse the very people you are trying to impress. You can make life quite simple by doing extras for others and by remaining calm, balanced and easygoing. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and compassionate and face every battle, project and life goal with determination. You are outgoing and charming.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8			9				7
				1				3
		1	4	6	2		8	
4 7					6		7	9 8
1	5		9					6
	9		2	7	5	6		
5				4				
6				8			5	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	5	2	8	7	6	1	4
1	4	6	5	9	3	7	2	8
8	7	2	4	1	6	3	9	5
6	8	7	1	2	5	4	3	9
2	5	9	7	3	4	8	6	1
4	3	1	8	6	9	5	7	2
5	2	4	6	7	1	9	8	3
7	1	3	9	4	8	2	5	6
9	6	8	3	5	2	1	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TO SLEEP, PERCHANCE TO DREAM Solution: 8 letters

T	H	L	L	A	F	O	T	S	O	O	B	E	E	M
S	E	S	I	O	N	T	L	R	A	E	L	C	L	E
G	N	I	E	E	S	X	B	U	R	S	T	N	(P)	M
E	Z	I	L	A	U	S	I	V	C	U	O	(E)	I	O
E	G	S	P	R	E	V	I	E	W	I	(E)	I	T	R
P	E	M	L	E	A	R	N	G	T	(D)	D	R	L	Y
A	K	R	A	D	E	N	R	A	N	Y	H	E	U	T
C	P	O	U	W	A	E	N	U	S	A	B	P	M	I
S	O	F	O	T	M	I	O	G	M	C	L	X	G	R
E	N	P	U	E	C	R	N	B	R	I	A	E	N	U
X	S	R	M	U	G	I	T	A	S	D	N	R	I	C
R	A	B	L	K	T	H	P	H	N	E	K	D	Y	E
L	E	L	C	S	G	I	E	U	I	A	R	C	L	S
R	A	A	E	I	D	L	O	T	R	N	L	V	F	N
H	B	R	L	R	P	S	T	A	G	E	K	S	E	I

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Last Saturday's Answer: Liquor

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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIA KARFELGAD-WEI, Petitioner,	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0057**
versus	**SUMMONS**
SHI YING WEI, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED REPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for your to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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Bryant struggles in Lakers win over Mavs

DALLAS (AP)—Kobe Bryant overcame a sore ankle to score 16 points, helping the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks 96-91 on Saturday night.

Bryant shot just 6 of 20, yet scored six points and assisted on the other basket in a 9-0 run late in the second quarter that snapped a tie and put the Lakers ahead to stay in the matchup of Western Conference powers - and a potential playoff preview.

After Bryant came down awkwardly on his left ankle late in the third quarter and left the game for a bit, the Lakers immediately scored eight consecutive points to stretch the lead to 10.

Phil Jackson got his 600th victory with the Lakers, becoming only the fifth coach in NBA history to reach that mark with one franchise.

The Mavericks (47-19) are only a half-game ahead of Los Angeles (47-20) for second place in the Western Conference. But if the Lakers win the Pacific Division, as expected, they would get the higher seed in the playoffs if the two teams finish the regular season with the same record. They have split their first two games, and play again one more time.

Andrew Bynum led the Lakers with 22 points and 15 rebounds, while Pau Gasol had 18 points and Ron Artest 12.

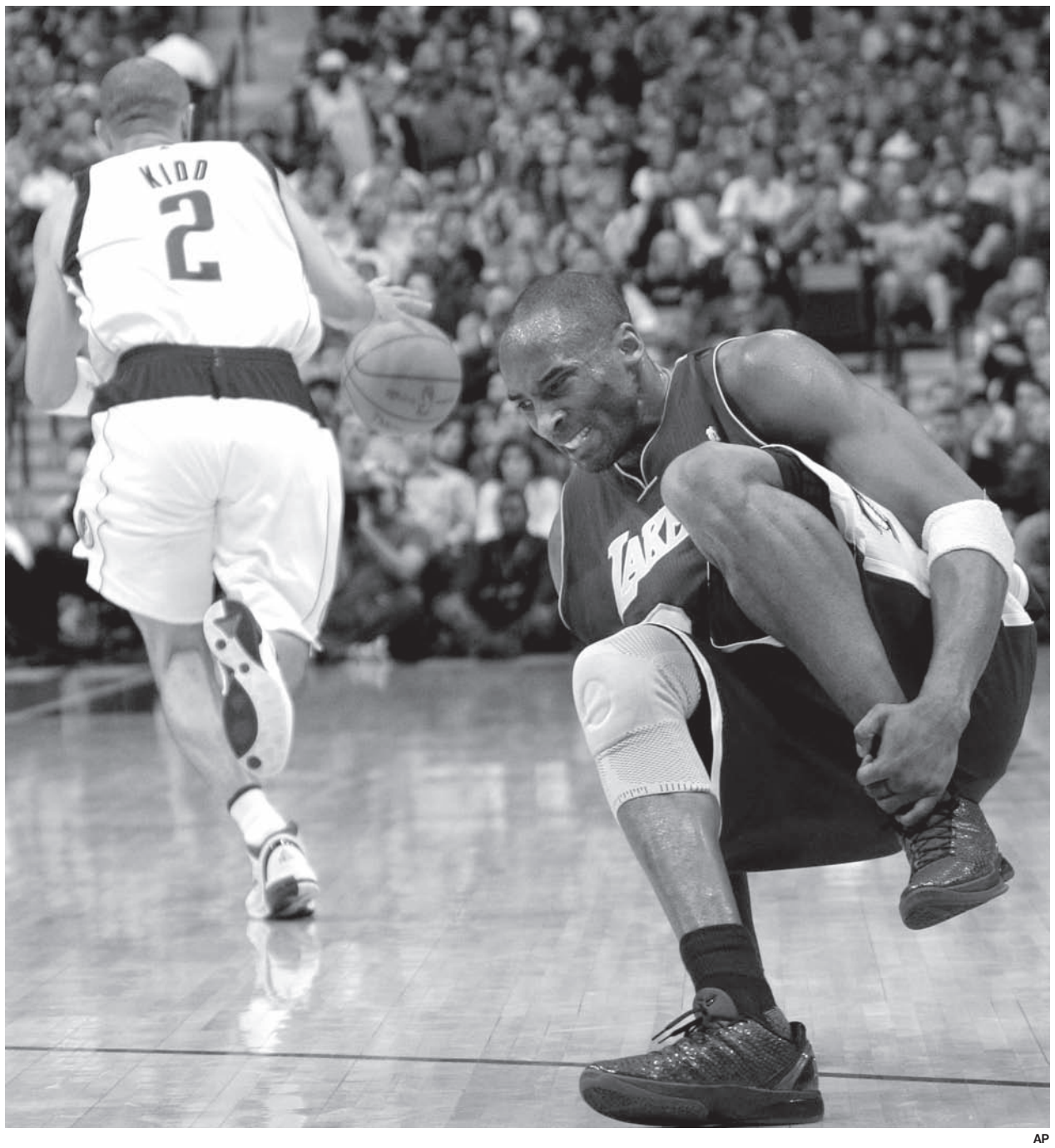
Dirk Nowitzki and Shawn Marion had 25 points apiece for Dallas while both posting double-doubles. Marion had 12 rebounds and Nowitzki 10 boards.

Dallas was within 91-89 after a miss by Bryant led to a fast-break slam by Marion with 25 seconds left. Gasol was immediately fouled after that and made the second free throw.

But Jason Kidd missed an inside shot with 11 seconds left, and Bynum made two free throws.

Los Angeles was coming off a loss Thursday night in Miami where Bryant made his first four shots, then was 4 for 17 the rest of the way. Bryant returned to the court after the game had ended, taking hundreds of shots over more than an hour and finishing after midnight.

Bryant made only one of his first five shots Saturday before his basket with 4:34 left in the first half that snapped a 37-all tie. Corey Brewer then missed a 3-pointer and fouled Bryant, who made two free throws and then had two steals during a stretch when the Mavs had turnovers on four consecutive possessions.



AP

Dallas Mavericks Jason Kidd (2) dribbles away as Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant (24) holds his ankle after he twisted it during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas on Saturday, March 12, 2011. Bryant left the game but returned to play as the Lakers won, 96-91.

Heat 118, Grizzlies 85

In Miami, Dwyane Wade had 28 points and nine assists and LeBron James scored 27 points while taking the fourth quarter off as the Miami Heat ran away early to beat the Memphis Grizzlies 118-85 in the NBA on Saturday.

Wade also had five blocks, four of them in a 55-second span of the opening quarter. The 33-point victory margin was Miami's largest this season.

Chris Bosh scored 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Heat, who closed within 2Ω games of Boston for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Mike Bibby added 17 for Miami on a 5-for-5 effort from 3-point range.

Hornets 115, Kings 103

In New Orleans, Chris Paul dealt with a brief bout of anxiety as he prepared to return from a mild concussion that had sidelined him for two games.

It had nothing to do with his health, though.

"Before the game, I was a little bit nervous, just because I feel like we've been playing well and I didn't want to come out and mess anything up," Paul said.

Really?

The All-Star guard scored a season-high 33 points to go with 15 assists, seven rebounds and five steals, and the New Orleans Hornets beat the Sacramento Kings 115-103 on Saturday night.

"I'm never surprised by those kinds of numbers," Hornets coach Monty Williams said. "That's what he's capable of doing. Scoring 33 points is probably a little high for him, but he's capable of that. When he's able to push the ball in transition and knock down his jumper, he can do that more often than people think."

Bulls honor first championship team

CHICAGO (AP)—Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen were together again for another championship celebration, this time to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chicago Bulls' first title.

The Hall of Famers along with some teammates and coaches were on hand for a halftime ceremony during Saturday's game against the Utah Jazz, reliving their past glory.

There was Jordan dunking over Patrick Ewing again. Pippen was wreaking havoc on both ends, John Paxson was nailing jumpers, the Pistons were hurrying off the court and the Bulls were hoisting the trophy, drenched in champagne after knocking off the Lakers.

It was all there during a video set to Tom Petty's "Learning to Fly" that kicked off the festivities.

Former Bulls broadcaster Jim Durham served as the master of ceremonies, and there were loud cheers as each player was introduced, starting with Dennis Hopson. Horace Grant and John Paxson each received a nice ovation, and fans just about came unglued when Pippen was introduced.

And when Jordan was called? Well, the roar was what anyone would expect.

In his address to the crowd, Pippen thanked the organization for bringing "back a memory that we all want to live again just one more time."

"This is very special for us," he said.

Jordan, grinning ear-to-ear, thanked the Bulls for "allowing us to reunite."

He added: "You guys are in store for a lot of other championships. You look at this team tonight, don't be surprised if you have six more coming."

The current team with Derrick Rose leading the way is stirring memories of a championship era that kicked into gear 20 years ago. The 1990-91 team went 61-21 and finally beat Detroit after losing to the Pistons in the Eastern Conference finals the previous two years, then took out Magic Johnson's Los Angeles Lakers in five games to start the first of Chicago's two three-peats.

"I was just talking to Paxson," Jordan said after the ceremony. "I said, 'You guys could be the best team in the East if you play the type of basketball you guys have been playing. I don't think it's going to take them seven years."

That's how long it took for Jordan, who endorsed Rose for league MVP.

"That kid has come into his own," Jordan said. "He's matured quite a bit. When he came into the league, everybody said he had speed and can get to the rim, but he can't shoot. Now, he can shoot the 3 as well as pull-up shots. He has very few flaws. I'm pretty sure the next thing they're going to say is he doesn't play good defense or can't handle the double team. Time will tell.

Spurs 115, Rockets 107

In Houston, Tony Parker scored 21 points and helped the San Antonio Spurs beat back a second-half comeback bid by the Houston Rockets for a 115-107 victory Saturday night.

The Spurs led by 13 points in the second quarter and were up by 10 at the half before Houston took its first lead at 67-66 on a dunk by Jordan Hill with 6:06 left in the third quarter.

Nuggets 131, Pistons 101

In Denver, J.R. Smith scored 26 of his season-high 31 points in the second half, helping the Denver Nuggets pull away for a 131-101 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Saturday night.

Smith was 9 of 15 from 3-point range for Denver, 7-2 since the blockbuster trade that sent Carmelo Anthony to New York on Feb. 22. Nene added 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Ty Lawson had 15 points and 11 assists.

Bulls 118, Jazz 100

In Chicago, Derrick Rose and Luol Deng each scored 26 points, and the Chicago Bulls ran away with their 13th win in 15 games, all but grabbing a share of the Eastern Conference lead with an easy 118-100 victory over the Utah Jazz on Saturday.

Rose scored 17 points in a blistering first quarter as the Bulls grabbed a 37-17 lead, and Chicago set a franchise record with 18 3-pointers while pulling within percentage points of Boston.

It was a championship-level performance by a team that's trying to carve its own historical niche, and it came on a night when Chicago celebrated the 20th anniversary of its first title. With Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and other players and coaches from that team on hand for a halftime ceremony, the Bulls put on a show the old-timers could appreciate.

Hawks 91, Trail Blazers 82

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague matched a career high with 24 points and Jamal Crawford added 20 as Atlanta ended a four-game losing streak with a victory over Portland.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 22 points and Wesley Matthews had 19 for Portland.

The Hawks were without starting center Al Horford because of a sprained ankle and reserve forward Josh Powell, who was arrested before the game on traffic charges not far from the Atlanta arena.

Clippers 122, Wizards 101

In Washington, Blake Griffin scored all of his 26 points in the first half as Los Angeles defeated Washington.

Griffin topped the Wizards' John Wall in the matchup between the last two No. 1 picks in the NBA draft. Wall finished with 25 points, eight assists and seven rebounds.

Bucks 102, 76ers 74

In Milwaukee, Andrew Bogut scored 17 points and Luc Richard Mbah a Moute had 14 points, 12 rebounds and five steals to lift Milwaukee past Philadelphia.

Brandon Jennings scored 15 points, Keyon Dooling added 13 and Carlos Delfino had 12 for the Bucks, who won their third straight game, matching their season-best winning streak.

Lockout, court cases put popular NFL on hold

WASHINGTON (AP)—Welcome to The NFL Lockout.

As far back as May 2008, it became a possibility.

As recently as a week ago - when owners and players agreed to extend the deadline for a new collective bargaining agreement—Commissioner Roger Goodell made it sound avoidable.

And yet here we are: The country's most popular sport—water-cooler fodder for six months of Mondays; generator of more than $9 billion in annual revenues; responsible for the two most-watched programs in U.S. TV history, the 2010 and 2011 Super Bowls - is stuck in a holding pattern, thanks to its first work stoppage in nearly a quarter of a century.

The owners imposed a lockout on the players Saturday, essentially shutting down operations. That came hours after talks broke off and the union dissolved itself, meaning players no longer are protected under labor law but instead are now allowed to take their chances in federal court under antitrust law. Nine NFL players, including superstar quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, and one college player headed for the pros filed a class-action lawsuit in Minnesota and asked for a preliminary injunction to block a lockout, even before it went into effect.

"I know this sort of gives us a bad name - as well as the owners - in some fans' eyes," said Minnesota Vikings defensive end Brian Robison, one of the plaintiffs in the case that forever will be known as Brady et al vs. National Football League et al. "Some fans are more upset with the owners, and some are more upset with the players."

The lockout, a right management has to shut down a business when a CBA expires, means there can be no communication between the teams and current NFL players; no players - including those drafted in April - can be signed; teams won't pay for players' health insurance.

They took the term "lockout" rather literally at the Tennessee Titans' headquarters in Nashville, where a metal chain secured the main gate to the parking lot's front entrance, an extra bit of security normally not seen there.

The NFL has enjoyed labor peace since a 1987 strike by the players, but now next season could be jeopardized, depending on what happens in court.

Fans really will be upset if regular-season games are lost. No Sundays on the couch or at a bar, scanning television screens for the latest "Did you see that?!" plays. No fantasy football leagues or office pools.

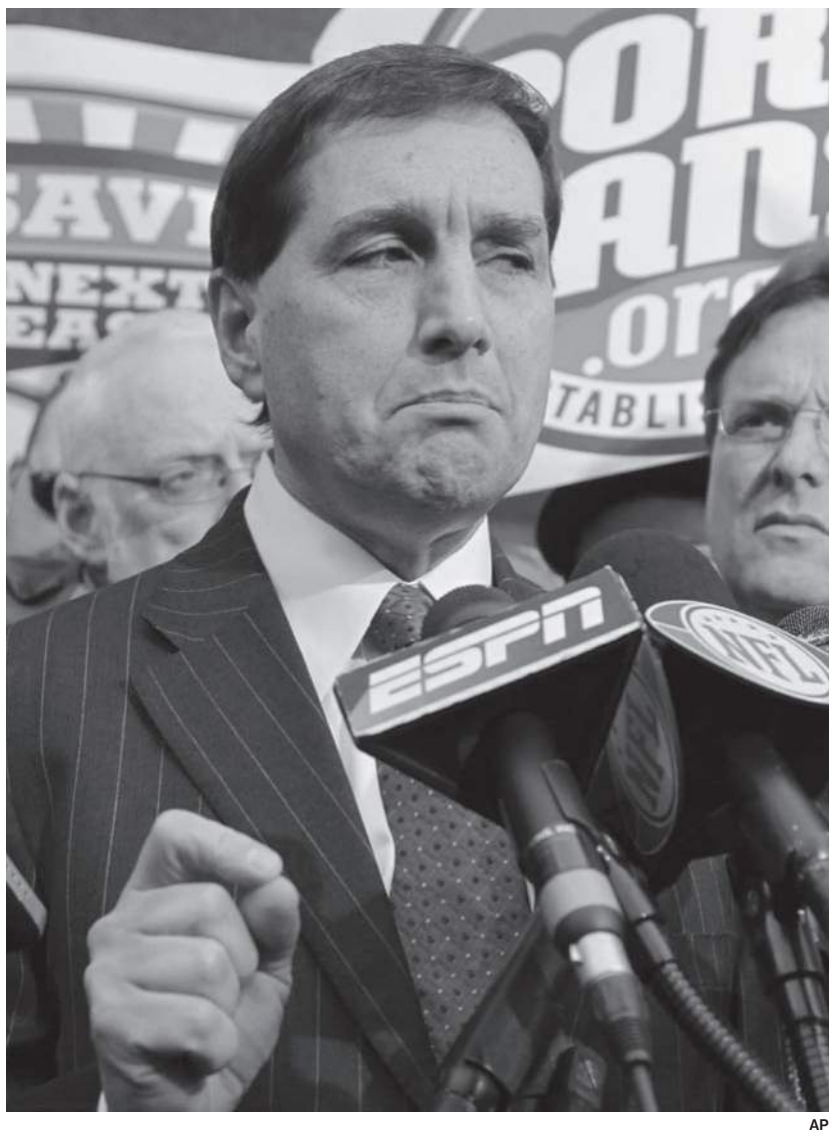
So what happened?

With so much at stake, why did everything fall apart?

Despite 16 days spent in face-to-face talks at the office of a presidentially appointed federal mediator, how did it come to this?

In terms of the key bargaining issues, there really was one that stands out: Put simply, owners and players couldn't figure out a mutually palatable way to split all those billions of dollars that come from TV contracts, ticket and merchandise sales, sponsorship deals, etc.

By Friday afternoon, when mediator George Cohen declared "no useful purpose would be served" by asking the parties to keep negotiating, it appeared the NFL and union were about $185 million apart on how much owners should get up front each season for certain operating expenses before splitting the rest of the revenues with players. That's a far cry from the $1 billion that separated the sides for months.



AP

Jeff Pash, executive vice-president and general counsel for the NFL, talks with the media after negotiations with the NFL Players Association involving a federal mediator broke down without an agreement, Friday, March 11, 2011, in Washington.

There also was a significant standoff on the union's insistence on seeing years of detailed financial statements for all 32 teams. The players' point, basically, was: If you say you need more money from us up front, prove it by showing us what you bring in and what you spend and what you're left with.

But this wasn't merely about numbers.

It also was about trust and respect: Each side has accused the other of bargaining in bad faith.

The NFL filed a charge against the union with the National Labor Relations Board. The union has said owners were planning for a lockout since they exercised an opt-out clause in the old CBA in 2008. Indeed, U.S. District Court judge David Doty—who has overseen NFL labor matters since the 1990s and is expected to handle Friday's filings—sided with the players in a March 2 ruling, saying the league improperly negotiated TV contracts with an eye to a lockout.

And neither side held back as the rhetoric escalated Thursday and Friday.

After talks ended, NFL Players Association executive DeMaurice Smith referred to football as a "business where two partners don't trust each other," and said: "While the players were moving forward, thinking that this was about fairness, honesty and transparency, the National Football League was meeting in secret to talk about collusion, conspiracy, leverage and breaking our game."

Jim Quinn, outside counsel for the union, spoke about "greed on the part of these owners" and, in reference to NFL lead negotiator Jeff Pash, said: "I hate to say this, but he has not told the truth to our players or our fans. He has, in a word, lied to them about what happened today and what's happened over the last two weeks and the last two years."

Pash, for his part, noted one dollar figure Smith had mentioned to reporters a few days earlier and said it was "not close to factual." Pash also spoke of the union's "commitment to litigate, as we've said all along."

New York Giants owner John Mara chimed in, too, saying, "I never really got the feeling during the past weeks that (the players) were serious about negotiating."

The league's statement Saturday announcing the lockout called the NFLPA's decertification a "sham" and said the players' court action is "built on the indisputably false premise that the NFLPA has stopped being a union and will merely delay the process of reaching an agreement."

New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft, a member of the league's powerful labor committee, issued a statement Saturday saying, "I remain confident that an agreement will be reached and that the 2011 season will be played."

He added that he hopes the sides will "return to the negotiating table very soon."

That's theoretically possible, and it echoed what Goodell said when he left the mediator's office Friday.

Then again, the previous Friday, Goodell pointed to the decision to delay the expiration of the old CBA and said: "The fact that we're continuing this dialogue is a positive sign."

The signs were more ominous a week later.

Johnson emerges with lead at Doral

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—Dustin Johnson didn't start the season the way he wanted, not with only one decent chance at winning.

His start at the Cadillac Championship wasn't much bette

On his opening tee shot Thursday at Doral, his drive sailed to the right and struck a spectator in the head. Turns out it was his grandfather, Art Whisnant, a former basketball star at South Carolina.

Suddenly, everything is looking up.

Johnson hit his stride and found his swagger Saturday on the back nine of the Blue Monster, shooting a 31 to emerge from a crowd of top players with a 7-under 65 and a two-shot lead going into the final round.

The 26-year-old American hit what he called a "bunt drive" that went 310 yards on the 17th, leaving him a wedge into 2 feet. That was the last of his eight birdies, and put him atop the leaderboard. A short time later, after Nick Watney missed two short birdie putts and put his tee shot into the water on No. 18, Johnson had the lead to himself.

"I played well today - drove it well, putt it well, hit the ball well," Johnson said. "So I'm going to have to do that again tomorrow."

One look at the guys behind him makes that clear.

Johnson was at 13-under 203, although seven players were within three shots of him, none lower than No. 31 in the world.

That group does not include Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, who finished before the leaders teed off and remain out of the mix. The surprise is that it doesn't include Martin Kaymer, either. The new No. 1 was in the final group with Hunter Mahan, one shot out of the lead, until he took double bogey from the water on the third hole and struggled to a 74. Kaymer was seven shots back.

Johnson will play in the final group with Luke Donald, who took bogey on the final hole for a 66. Even so, Donald is in good position to capture a second straight World Golf Championship, and a victory could be enough to make him No. 2 in the world.

Watney, who had to settle for a 68 after his double bogey on the 18th, and Matt Kuchar (68) were with Donald at 11-under 205.

Adam Scott is making fast friends with his long putter. He had a 68 and was in the group another shot behind that included Francesco Molinari, Rory McIlroy and Mahan, who didn't make a par over the last six holes - two birdies, four bogeys—and shot 71.

All of them will be chasing Johnson, who has a 54-hole lead for the first time other than at Pebble Beach. He won twice at Pebble in the regular PGA Tour event, but is perhaps more famous for losing a three-shot lead at the U.S. Open last summer when he shot 82.

For all his power, Johnson is a threat this week because of his putting.

He didn't work on it once during the cold, rainy winter in South Carolina, and really didn't put much attention on it earlier this year until after he lost in the first round of the Match Play Championship two weeks ago.

"I finally feel comfortable with the putter, so things are going a little better," Johnson said.

He also got some help from swing coach Butch Harmon—who also works with Watney—on Saturday morning. Johnson asked him to check on his driver and his wedges, and then he put them to good use.

Johnson, considered to have the most potential of America's young crop of players, is known for his audacious tee shots. He went from that "bunt drive" on the 17th to "swinging has hard as I could" on the 18th, a 326-yard blast that left him only a wedge to the green.

And that tee shot on Thursday that nailed his grandfather?

"Yeah, that was a hard drive," he said, smiling. "He said it hit him on the fly, but it couldn't have."

For one thing, his grandfather wasn't hurt.

Johnson could move into the top 10 in the world for the first time in his career. Donald, who moved to No. 3 with his win at the Match Play, could go all the way to No. 2, and it wouldn't surprise him.

"I'm certainly playing very good golf right now, some of the best I've ever played," said Donald, who ran off three birdies in a four-hole stretch around the turn and was bogey-free until a tee shot to the right, leaving him little chance of reaching the 18th green.

Few other contenders were pleased, mainly because of how they finished.

Watney looked as though he might have a two-shot lead, and instead was two shots behind. Molinari, who won the World Golf Championship in Shanghai in November, nearly went in the water on the last and took bogey.

Mahan kept in front most of the way until failing to birdie the par 5s on the back nine, and finishing with back-to-back bogeys.

"Out here, you hit it in the wrong place, you have a terrible angle to the hole and in the Bermuda rough, you can get a good lie or a bad lie," he said. "Just didn't make good swings and made some bad putts."

Woods and Mickelson, playing for the third straight day together, didn't inspire. Woods switched back to a mallet putter—the same one he tried in Australia last year—and the best he could manage was a 2-under 70 that left him 11 shots behind. Mickelson had a sloppy double bogey on the 14th and wound up with a 72, putting him at even-par 216.

Woods did not comment after his round. He told a tour official he was going to the range, but instead headed to the parking lot.

Hocog gains slot to VFW Post 3457 Battle of Champions

Victor Hocog earned a slot to the VFW Post 3457 Battle of Champions 9-Ball Tournament after ruling the Week 13 of the event.

Hocog won the double-elimination tournament after edging Rolly Villanueva in the finals. Villanueva won in the lower half bracket of the 16-player field to force a finals showdown against Hocog, who was unbeaten in four games.

A win over Jerry Ayuyu advanced Hocog in the quarterfinals against eventual third place John Lizama. Hocog won for a semis duel against Joe Reyes. Hocog prevailed anew to clinch the first finals ticket.

Villanueva first defeated Jerry Soriano to make it to quarterfinals and then topped Simon Kapileo to book a Final Four ticket. In the semifinals, Villanueva was paired against Mike Sablan and the former won anew before bowing to Hocog in the finals. Mike Sablan went on to drop to the battle for third place against Lizama and lost.

Three more weekly tournaments will be held to determine the 16 players who will slug it out in the Battle of Champions on April 3. ***(PR)***

SHONNY

From Page 28

I kept myself in my room and take medications," said Gardner, who suffered food poisoning during his stint in XTERRA Philippines, two weeks ago.

"I am just glad that the race was over and I came to the finish line in one piece," added Gardner, who had his wife worried when the U.K. pro did not make it to the finish line after two and a half hours.

Less than eight minutes after Gardner completed the race, Vanlandingham reached the finish line at the American Memorial Park compound, making her the second overall finisher and first in the women's division and ending Renata Bucher's six-year reign.

The Colorado native timed in at 3:01:09, more than five minutes ahead of eventual runner-up and XTERRA Saipan newcomer Carina Wasle (3:06:33). Bucher dropped to third after clocking in at 3:08:10.

"I was relieved to finally win XTERRA Saipan. It was a tough battle and I think it helped a lot that I am fitter coming into this year's race than in 2010. Hats off to Renata, who was liked an animal in the jungle, chasing me, and to the rest of the pros, who really pushed me," Vanlandingham said.

Completing the Top 5 in the women's division were U.S. pro and XTERRA Saipan first-timer Suzie Snyder (3:20:12), and Saipan's Mieko Carey (3:30:27).

Snyder and Carey came to the finish line after Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara, who placed second to Gardner with a time of 3:09:13. Rounding out the Top 5 in the men's pro were Japan's Paul Chetwynd (3:37:00) and Adam York (3:41:13) and Brazil's Denilson Freitas (3:43:18).

Scary swim

Less than 18 hours after a Tsunami warning was issued on Saipan, XTERRA Championship participants plunged into the cold waters off Micro Beach for the 1.5-kilometer swim.

Rough waters with strong current and waves greeted swimmers and slowed them down. No swimmer finished the two-lap race under 20 minutes. Last year, Kai Staal timed in at 15:10.

"When we started the first lap, the water was just below my waist, when I did the second lap, it was above my neck," Saipan's Butch Sublemente said. "I even asked the kayakers to look after me, as I was a bit scared."

Carey was the first out of the water at 21:30, followed by Synder at 21:23. Gardner finished third, but almost lost to10-year-old Saipan Swim Club swimmer Kento Akimaru, who timed in at 21:32 against the former's 21:30.

Bucher surprisingly placed fifth at 21:39, while Vanlandingham was seventh (22:35), and Wasle came in at 10th (23:02).

Slippery bike ride

Behind by only 1:04, Vanlandingham caught up with Bucher in the 30-kilometer bike race. By the time, the U.S. pro reached the peak of Mt. Tapochao, she was already ahead of the Swiss bet by about three minutes. Vanlandingham finished the bike race in 1:36:06 (third best) against Bucher's 1:41:48 (fourth best).

"I knew I had the edge in the bike, so I kept on pushing myself. I have to have a big lead in the bike leg, so when I am tired, I could slow down a bit in the run race," Vanlandingham said.

Gardner was the fastest in the bike leg at 1:28:37, about six minutes ahead of Ogasawara.

Wasle was fifth overall in the bike race at 1:46:20, crashing twice. Snyder also had a crash at the new Lamar trail and was sixth overall in the bike leg at 1:50:56. Several other riders, including Saipan's Kieran Daly and Jackie Van Dam, had crashes in the bike race.

Carey did not crash, but had a minor problem in her bike and finished 12th (1:56:22).

"I pushed myself too hard in the swim and then started quickly in the bike and ran out of power in the end," Carey said.

Bucher had the same dilemma, saying she tried very hard to catch up with Vanlandingham, but simple did not have enough legs to do so.

Blistering run

As promised, Wasle had the fastest time in the run leg at 55:23. She was the lone XTERRA Saipan Championship course participant to complete the 12-k trail run under one hour.

She could have finished early had she not fell on the trail twice.

"It was tougher than I expected," said the Austrian bet, who relegated Bucher to third place after her best time in the run portion.

"Overall it was a tough, but fun race. XTERRA Saipan is now my favorite course," the diminutive Wasle added.

Bucher submitted 1:02:55 in the run leg (fourth best), Vanlandingham recorded 1:00:40 (second best), and Gardner logged 1:01:49 (third best).

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

victims and finished the race for them even though it was hard for me to do it," Hagiwara said through interpreter Kento Akimaru of Saipan Swim Club.

Later after the race, men's and women's division champions Sam Gardner and Shonny Vanlandingham dedicated their victories to the tsunami victims.

"My heart goes to the people of Japan. This win is for them and I hope they recover soon," Vanlandingham said.

"The big news now is not the winners in XTERRA, but the people in Japan, who are suffering after this tragedy. My condolences to the family who lost their loved ones and to those who survived the tsunami and earthquake, I pray for their safety. I also dedicate this win to them," said Gardner, who ruled XTERRA Saipan for the third straight time.

TARKONG

From Page 28

Cepeda's record to 3-2. Then another Trench Tech bet, lightweight "Badd" Brad Palacios defeated Pwang's Pete "Project K" Keju via referee stoppage due to strikes at the two-minute mark of the first round.

Predator Combat's Jesse Santos locked in a rear-naked choke to submit independent fighter Marlon Gardee at 2:48 of the second round of their 140-lb bout.

Independent light heavyweight Saimon Sebuu landed a vicious punch to Robert "Moji" Mojica's jaw for a TKO victory, just 23 seconds into the first round, while Trench Tech featherweight Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez locked in a triangle choke submission on Zalaka's John Ilo at 1:22 of the first round.

Marianas Elite lightweight Maitai "The Charger" Charley defeated independent Guam fighter Ben Quinata via rear-naked choke submission at 1:30 of the first round.

Results of the remaining fights in ROP 10 will be published in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

LIONS

From Page 28

the bottom frame. Greg Iskawa connected with a RBI double, then scored two runs off wild pitches, while Dela Cruz tripled home Lemarc Iguel. An out and a walk later, Russel Hocog cleared the bases with a two-RBI single. A walk later, Tim Deleon Guerrero brought two more runs with a double, and a walk later Arthur Jebehn cleared the bases again with a two-RBI single. The last three runs came off errors.

The Lions defense held Heats scoreless for the remainder of the contest. The Lions scored 24 runs off just eight hits.

In other results, the Rep. Ramon Basa Kagman Lions pounced Martha Store's BTS Survivors early and held on for the win, 6-4, during their Junior League game on Saturday.

Other junior league results show Bank of Saipan Red Sox outlasting the IT&E Ol'Aces, 5-3, and the Fielders besting the Jets, 12-1.

JUNIOR LEAGUE
Lions 6, Survivors 4

The Lions took an early 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning by loading the bases with three leadoff walks that set up a RBI single by Yobech Brel and two more freebie walks with ducks on the pond. Brel scored later off a wild pitch.

The Survivors failed to answer in the bottom frame and the after two scoreless innings, the Lions added two more runs to their lead at the start of the fourth off a two-RBI single by Cedric Ada.

The Survivors managed four runs to trail, 4-6, in the top of the fifth off a pair of wild pitches, a RBI rip by Jeremy Lizama, and an error. Then both teams went 1-2-3 in the final two innings. Wining pitcher Justin Reyes went all seven and allowed two earned runs off three hits and five walks with six strikeouts.

Red Sox 5, Ol'Aces 3

The home team Red Sox broke the ice with three runs in the bottom of the first inning off errors. After a scoreless second, the IT&E Ol'Aces got a run back in the top of the third inning. Jessie Brel reached off an error and later stole home.

The Red Sox did not answer and IT&E moved within one, 2-3, in the top of the fourth inning. Kenji Yamagata led off with a hit and scored off an error.

Then the Red Sox went ahead, 5-2, in the bottom frame. Daren Rabago drew a one-out walk and later stole home, while teammate Jayce Palacios reached off a fielder's choice and scored off an error.

Both teams came up empty in the fifth and sixth innings before IT&E mustered a run in the top of the seventh off a RBI single by Terson Eina, but came up a couple runs short of forcing extra innings.

Winning pitcher Palacios went the distance and allowed on earned run off four hits and two walks with a pair of strikeouts. Notably, IT&E pitcher Mike Muna allowed just one hit, three walks, and a bean ball with eight strikeouts in the loss.

Fielders 12, Jets 1

The Fielders' Davin Ada doubled home Kobby Kaipat in the top of the first inning. Then the Jets' Ray Saralu belted a two-out triple and scored off a wild pitch to give his team's only run in the bottom frame.

The Fielders went ahead, 3-1, in the second inning off a pair of RBI knocks by Zack Sasamoto and Kai Wanket. The Fielders went on to add another run off a RBI single by Gayvan Uchau in the top of the fourth and two more in the fifth off a RBI triple by Keene Guerrero. Ada later drove him to the plate.

The Fielders jumped ahead, 10-0, in the sixth off errors and tacked on two more runs at the start of the seventh off more errors.

Winning pitcher Uchau went all seven and gave up one earned run off four hits and two walks with six strikeouts.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	46	17	.730	_
New York	34	30	.531	12 1/2
Philadelphia	34	32	.515	13 1/2
New Jersey	21	43	.328	25 1/2
Toronto	18	47	.277	29

Southeast Division

x-Miami	45	21	.682	
Orlando	41	25	.621	4
Atlanta	38	28	.576	7
Charlotte	27	38	.415	17 1/2
Washington	16	48	.250	28

Central Division

y-Chicago	47	18	.723	_
Indiana	27	38	.415	20
Milwaukee	26	38	.406	20 1/2
Detroit	23	44	.343	25
Cleveland	12	52	.188	34 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	54	12	.818	
Dallas	47	19	.712	7
New Orleans	39	29	.574	16
Memphis	36	31	.537	18 1/2
Houston	33	34	.493	21 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	41	23	.641	_
Denver	39	27	.591	3
Portland	37	29	.561	5
Utah	34	33	.507	8 1/2
Minnesota	17	50	.254	25 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	47	20	.701	_
Phoenix	33	30	.524	12
Golden State	29	36	.446	17
L.A. Clippers	26	41	.388	21
Sacramento	15	49	.234	30 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Miami 118, Memphis 85
Atlanta 91, Portland 82
L.A. Clippers 122, Washington 101
Chicago 118, Utah 100
Milwaukee 102, Philadelphia 74
New Orleans 115, Sacramento 103
San Antonio 115, Houston 107
Denver 131, Detroit 101
L.A. Lakers 96, Dallas 91

CADILLAC CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

DORAL, Florida (AP) – Scores Saturday from the Cadillac Championship, a World Golf Championships event on the 7,334-yard, par-72 TPC Blue Monster:

Third Round

Dustin Johnson	69-69-65	–203
Luke Donald	67-72-66	–205
Matt Kuchar	68-69-68	–205
Nick Watney	67-70-68	–205
Adam Scott	68-70-68	–206
Rory McIlroy	68-69-69	–206
Francesco Molinari	68-68-70	–206
Hunter Mahan	64-71-71	–206
Padraig Harrington	68-71-68	–207
Martin Laird	67-70-70	–207
Anders Hansen	71-69-68	–208
Vijay Singh	68-72-68	–208
Steve Stricker	68-71-69	–208
Paul Casey	70-71-69	–210
Martin Kaymer	66-70-74	–210
Bo Van Pelt	71-74-66	–211
Louis Oosthuizen	71-73-67	–211
Ryo Ishikawa	65-76-70	–211
D.A. Points	68-72-71	–211
Aaron Baddeley	72-66-73	–211
Jonathan Byrd	70-74-68	–212
Rickie Fowler	71-73-68	–212
Jhonattan Vegas	69-74-69	–212
Kevin Streelman	68-72-72	–212
Ernie Els	69-70-73	–212
Retief Goosen	69-76-68	–213
Robert Allenby	72-72-69	–213
Robert Karlsson	69-73-71	–213
Bill Haas	74-68-71	–213
Ryan Palmer	73-73-68	–214
Tiger Woods	70-74-70	–214
Thomas Bjorn	71-73-70	–214
Lee Westwood	70-74-70	–214
Edoardo Molinari	71-73-70	–214
Ryan Moore	70-74-70	–214
Graeme McDowell	70-73-71	–214
K.J. Choi	73-69-72	–214
Rory Sabbatini	74-74-67	–215
Zach Johnson	72-75-68	–215
Camilo Villegas	71-71-73	–215
Charley Hoffman	67-75-73	–215
Jim Furyk	74-71-71	–216
Phil Mickelson	73-71-72	–216
Kyung-tae Kim	73-70-73	–216
Miguel A. Jimenez	71-72-73	–216
Y.E. Yang	73-72-72	–217
Ian Poulter	73-70-74	–217
Thomas Aiken	68-75-74	–217
Charl Schwartzel	71-71-75	–217
Kevin Na	74-75-69	–218
Justin Rose	77-71-70	–218
Mark Wilson	72-75-71	–218
Marcus Fraser	69-78-71	–218
Jason Day	71-76-71	–218
S.S.P. Chowrasia	74-72-72	–218
Hiroyuki Fujita	71-73-74	–218
Peter Hanson	73-73-73	–219
Geoff Ogilvy	76-73-72	–221
Peter Senior	75-73-73	–221
Rhys Davies	73-76-72	–221
Alvaro Quiros	70-77-74	–221
Yuta Ikeda	74-73-74	–221
Ross Fisher	69-76-76	–221
Seung-yul Noh	72-70-79	–221
Anthony Kim	80-74-68	–222
Jeff Overton	75-77-73	–225

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Three sports highlight week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy and Saipan International School's champions wins in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League, the 2011 Saipan Marathon, and the Olympic beach volleyball qualifier were the highlights of the week.

The Saipan Marathon drew more than 800 runners with Japan's Satoshi Emoto and Noriko Hirao ruling the full marathon, the CNMI's Amber Sarkkinen and Guam's Michael Gaitan topping the half marathon and the CNMI's Noriko Jim and Japan's Takasahi Aoyama prevailing in the 10K race.

In the Olympic beach volleyball qualifier, the CNMI's Melody Matson and Amanda Clarson beat Papua New Guinea in the tiebreak for second place to join Australia to the second round of the London Olympics trial. In the men's division, Australia and PNG advanced to the next round of the qualifier that will be played in China.

In basketball, the Lady Geckos won the girls JV finals against Whispering Palms, 24-19, while the Eagles soared to their first title in three years after beating SIS in the boys championship game, 33-23.

The Lady Geckos made it to the finals after beating GCA, while Whispering Palms clinched the first finals berth after downing Seventh Day Adventist. In the boys division, SIS stunned Mt. Carmel in the semis to arrange a title tiff against GCA, which won over Agape Christian School in the other semis pairing.

Still in basketball, the nine-team UBA/Docomo league was down to two squads with IP&E Konflikt and Mobil battling the championship. Mobil went on to take Game 1, 84-69, of the bets-of-three title series and will be gunning for a sweep today.

While the UBA/Docomo caging is about to conclude its season, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association just started with its men's league last week with MP United Blue Wild Bill's, and Inter Godfather's winning their debuts.

Other on-going leagues on Saipan continued last week with Saipan Little League baseball having their Majors, Big, Senior, and Junior games; the Saipan Major League holding their regular season matches; the Belau softball league playing Week 4 games; and the Chamolinian softball league having their regular season matches at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Then just before the week ended, Saipan welcomed visiting triathletes for the 2011 XTERRA Saipan and 2011 Tagaman Triathlon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners head to the finish line during the 2011 Saipan Marathon last week.

▲ Melody Matson stops a serve in the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Beach Volleyball Oceania Continental Sub Zonal tournament tiebreaker golden set against Papua New Guinea last week on the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

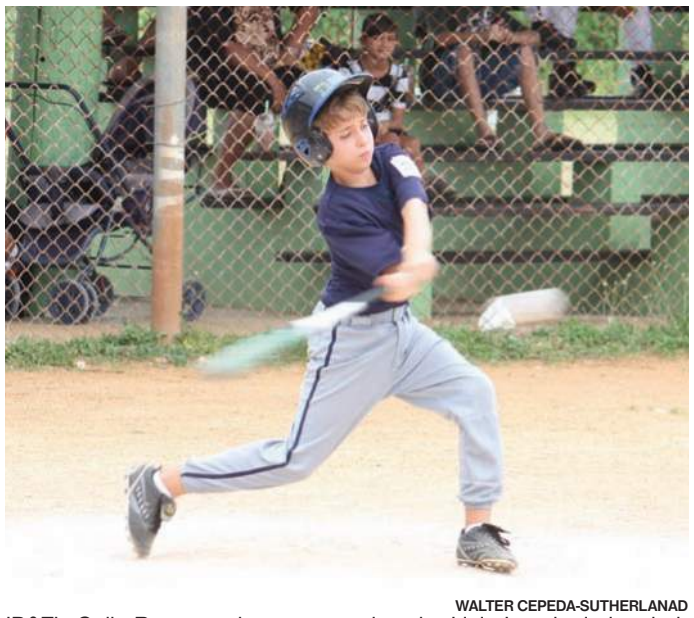
Triathletes entered in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan pose for a group photo after a practice swim at the "Tanks" in Susupe.

▶ GCA's Richard Aldan faces a phalanx of SIS defenders during the second quarter of their title game in the COPSSA junior varsity league last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Larry Sharry, left, and IP&E Konflikt's Edwin Santos battle for the loose ball during Game 1 of their best-of-three title series in the UBA/Docomo caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLANAD

IP&E's Colin Ramsey takes a cut against the Little Legals during their game in the Majors division of the SLLB last week a the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Adele Hudkins, center, gets ready for the rebound play against two GCA players during their semis game in the COPSSA junior varsity league last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Shonny ends Renata's reign; Gardner wins

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sam Gardner, right, and Shonny Vanlandingham smiles after winning Saturday's 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

XTERRA Saipan has a new women's champion in U.S. pro Shonny Vanlandingham, while United Kingdom's Sam Gardner kept his reign in the men's category.

Slowed down by food poisoning, Gardner still finished ahead of 46 XTERRA Championship course finishers, clocking in at two hours, 53 minutes, and 46 seconds in Saturday's race. His time in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan was about 20 minutes behind his record and 2010 time of 2:34:03.

"It was a long and slow race, as I had been battling food poisoning for about a week. Coming into this race, I was a bit worried that I might lose the title, as I am not feeling well and instead of having a practice run or bike,

See SHONNY on Page 26

Tsunami victims remembered

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Japanese Yuko Hagiwara and several other participants in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan sustained bruises and cuts due to crashes during Saturday's race, but soldiered on, as they knew these pains are just temporary.

XTERRA Saipan participants hoped they could wish the same for Japan, admitting that it will be hard for the Japanese to recover soon from the tragic catastrophe.

Minutes before the 2011 XTERRA Saipan kicked off early Saturday morning, Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica called on participants and volunteers and asked them to have a moment of silence in memory of those who died from the tsunami and earthquake that hit Japan on Friday afternoon. "We hope that our neighboring brothers and sisters from Japan will recover soon. Let's pray for them," Mojica said.

Hagiwara, who did the XTERRA Sports course, thanked XTERRA Saipan organizers and participants for sharing their pains.

"We all need your prayers and wishes," Hagiwara said, who was worried a day before the race started, as she could not reach her parents by phone.

"Then I called them early morning and found out they are ok. But a lot of people in Japan are not, so when I did the race today, I thought of those

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

XTERRA Saipan Championship course participant Daz Parker focuses on the slippery path heading to Lamar trail during Saturday's race, which was dedicated to Tsunami victims in Japan.

Tarkong beats Cruz in first round

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

First of a two-part series

Despite of the tsunami warning generated by the magniture 8.9 earthquake in Japan, Rites of Passage 10: Bad Intentions pushed through with Saipan's Jason "Rush" Tarkong winning his return bout on Friday night at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

In the finale welterweight main event, Tarkong locked in a rear-naked choke submission on Kisetsu Warriors' TJ Cruz of Guam at the two-minute mark of the first round. Tarkong notched his 10th win in 12 tries after taking a two-year break from the cage and handed Cruz his first loss in three MMA fights.

In other results, Saipan's Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse defeated Will "The Kill" Chope (1-2) of the U.S. at 4:50 into the third round via a head and arm lock submission, while Marianas Elite's Derrick "El-Piligro" Rangamar won the featherweight main event rematch against Trench Tech's Chris "No Luv" Laayug (6-2).

Tarkong

Rangamar improved his MMA record to 5-8 and won his third fight in a row since October 2010. Rangamar got the win after Laayug did not get up to start the second round due to a knee injury.

Trench Tech's light heavyweight Ningbo "Slice" Cepeda put down Kisetsu Warriors' Justin Salas via tap out by a key-lock submission at 2:08 in the first round; the win improved

See TARKONG on Page 26

Lions devour Heats, 24-2

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Tan Siu Lin-Rep. Fred DLGuerrero-Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman Lions routed the Rep. Rafael Demapan Heats, 24-2, during the Senior League game yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Heats scored off a RBI knock by Tosi Lizama in the top of the first, but the Lions bit back with four runs in the bottom frame off a sacrifice fly by Ricardo Dela Cruz and four errors.

Then the Heats scored its final run in the top of the second off a wild pitch, but the Lions erupted with 13 runs in

See LIONS on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Coaches and members of the Tan Siu Lin–Rep. Fred DLGuerrero–Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman Lions are all smiles after pummeling the Rep. Rafael Demapan Heats, 24-2, during their Senior League game yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.